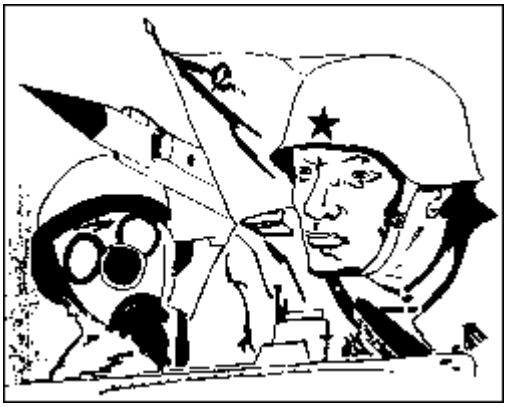

Soviet Armed Forces
IS3003
Edition B

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREFACE

The Army Institute for Professional Development (AIPD) administers the consolidated Army Correspondence Course Program (ACCP), which provides high-quality, economical training to its users. The AIPD is accredited by the Accrediting Commission of the Distance Education and Training Council (DETC), the nationally recognized accrediting agency for correspondence institutions.

Accreditation is a process that gives public recognition to educational institutions which meet published standards of quality. The DETC has developed a thorough and careful evaluation system to assure that institutions meet standards of academic and administrative excellence before it awards accreditation.

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US Army Intelligence Center and School

Fort Huachuca, Arizona 85613-7000

4 Credit Hours

Edition Date: June 1990

This subcourse familiarizes you with Soviet armed forces doctrine, tactics, organization, and equipment in relation to tactical operations and employment of forces.

There are no prerequisites for this subcourse.

This subcourse reflects the doctrine which was current at the time the subcourse was prepared. In your own words situation, always refer to the latest publication.

The words "he," "his," "him," and "man" used in this publication, represent both the masculine and feminine genders unless otherwise stated.

TERMINAL LEARNING OBJECTIVES

TASKS:	Understand the threat posed to United States armed forces by the growth and power of Soviet armed forces, and Soviet offensive formations; and types of maneuver emphasizing tactical offensive operations. Soviet defensive doctrine; emphasizing hasty and prepared defenses. Soviet special operations; emphasizing airborne, air assault, airmobile, Military Transport Aviation, and naval infantry forces.
CONDITIONS:	As an intelligence officer you are required to be the commander's expert on the enemy. At any and all times it is your responsibility to know where and what the enemy is doing and is planning to do.
STANDARDS:	You must report enemy tactics, weapons, and organization according to doctrine and the situation in accordance with FM 100-2-1, FM 100-2-2, and FM 100-2-3.

LESSON ONE

SOVIET ARMED FORCES ORGANIZATION

MQS MANUAL TASK: 01-3353.01-0010

TASK DESCRIPTION: You will become familiar with the threat posed to US armed forces by the growth and power of Soviet armed forces.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE:

ACTIONS: You will be able to explain the composition, organization and doctrine of the Soviet armed forces.

CONDITIONS: You will be given narrative information and illustrations for FM 100-2-1, 100-2-2, and 100-2-3.

STANDARDS: It is your responsibility as an intelligence officer to know where and what the enemy is doing in accordance with FM 100-2-1, 100-2-2, and 100-2-3.

REFERENCES: The material contained in this lesson was derived from the following publications:

FM 1-402.
FM 100-2-1.
FM 100-2-2.
FM 100-2-3.
FM 101-5-1.
Supr 03497.

INTRODUCTION

The Soviet Union has one of the largest and most modern armed forces in the world today with more than 4.8 million members. For the past 25 years, it has been growing in size and modernizing.

The threat posed to US armed forces around the world by growth and power of the Soviet Armed Forces are explained in detail, the composition, organization, and doctrine, with the capabilities and limitations of their weapons and equipment.

COMPONENTS OF SOVIET ARMED FORCES

The Soviet Armed Forces have retained the Tsarist "classic" European model, conscription of all enlisted personnel are led by a cadre of professionals and have an extensive program of modernization

and expansion. The Soviets have twice as many men under arms as the US does, backed up by a trained reserve force of equilavant size. Approximately 25,000,000 men are in the Soviet military reserves. This is 30 times the size of the US military reserves.

Soviet military forces are divided into five major components:

* Strategic rocket forces.
* Air defense troops.
* Air forces.
* Naval forces.
* Ground forces.

The Strategic Rocket Forces (SRF). The Soviet Union's main instrument for intercontinental thermonuclear war is the SRF. Their mission is to destroy enemy means of nuclear attack and key military, political, economic, and communication centers. The SRF intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) deployed in missile fields along the Trans-Siberian Railway, and medium-range ballistic missiles are located in the western and southern regions of the USSR. The Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty will eliminate intermediate and medium range system, they will remain a threat to European targets until 1991.

The Air Defense Troops (Voyska PVO). These forces defend against enemy air attack and aerial reconnaissance by diverting or destroying enemy aircraft, missiles, or space objects while in the air. They have early warning and air defense, fighter-interceptors, surface-to-air missiles (SAM), and antiballistic missile (ABM) launchers around Moscow, with a civil defense capability. Moscow is the only city in the world with an ABM system.

The Air Forces. The Soviet air forces are the largest in the world and are divided into three components, each with a separate mission:

* Long-range aviation.
* Frontal aviation.
* Military transport aviation.

Long-Range Aviation (LRA). The LRA is comparable to the US Air Force (USAF) Strategic Air Command (SAC), minus SACs ICBM force. It has several hundred aircraft, including BEAR and BISON long-range bombers, BADGER, BLINDER, and BACKFIRE medium-range bombers and tankers (Figure 1-1). It has three air armies--two in the western USSR and one in the Far East along the border with China. Seventy-five percent of its aircraft are stationed in the European USSR; most of the remainder are on the Chinese border to bomb strategic targets--enemy missile sites, nuclear arsenals, naval bases, strategic bomber bases, and war industries.

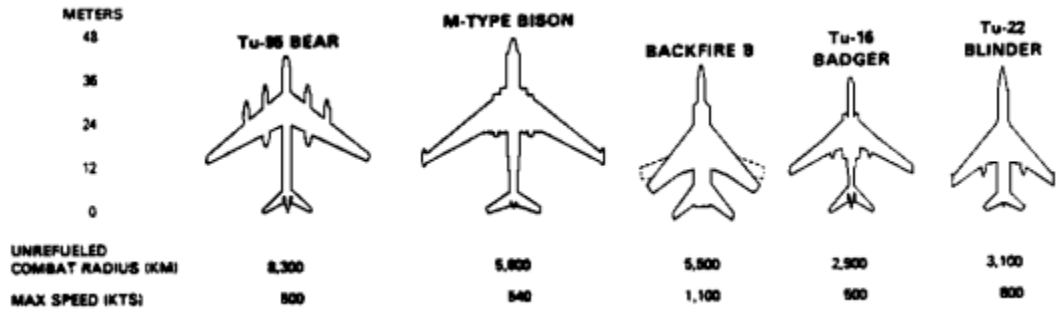


Figure 1-1. Long-Range Strike and Support Aircraft.

Aviation of the Front (AOF). AOF is comparable to the USAF Tactical Air Comand (TAC). It provides air support to ground forces. Its forces are assigned to the military districts (MDs) of the USSB and groups of forces in Eastern Europe. The AOF is composed of fighters, bombers, fighterbombers, and regiments of assault helicopters, transport helicopters, and reconnaissance aircraft.

AOFs modernization include the entire counter-air and 75 percent of the ground attack force. Soviet ground attack fighters have laser range finders, terrain avoidance radar, and television or laser-guided bombs on newer generation aircraft to enhance versatility and combat capabilities. They can carry payloads of 4,000 pounds over 300 nautical miles, and, over shorter ranges, 10,000 pounds of bombs, rockets, and guided missiles.

Military Transport Aviation (VTA). VTA is the Soviet equivalent of the USAF Military Airlift Command (MAC). It provides airlift support to all branches of the Soviet armed forces. It contains more than 600 transport aircraft in three categories:

* Strategic airlift (IL-78 CANDID, AN-22 COCK, and AN-124 CONDOR).

* Operational-tactical transports (AN-12 CUB).

* Tactical transports which include both fixed-wing aircraft and about 3,000 transport helicopters like the Mi-6 HOOK and the Mi-8 HIP.

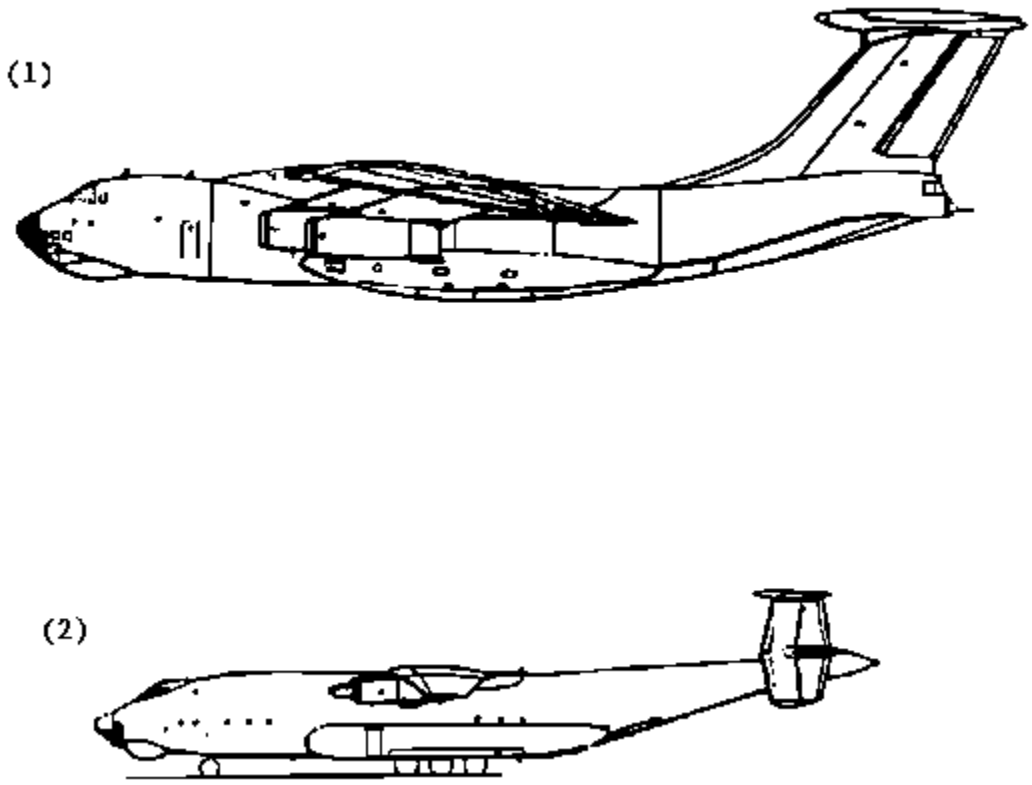


Figure 1-2. IL-76 (1) and AN-22 Cock (2)

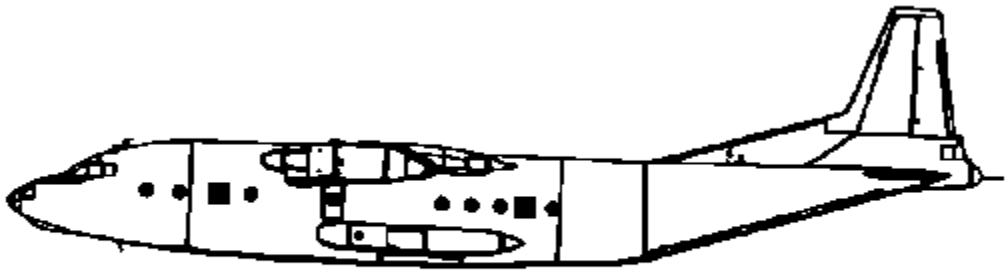


Figure 1-3. AN-12 CUB.

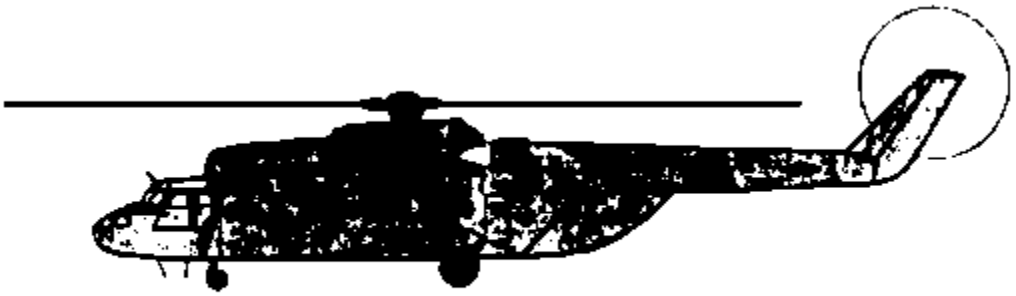


Figure 1-4. Mi-6 HOOK.

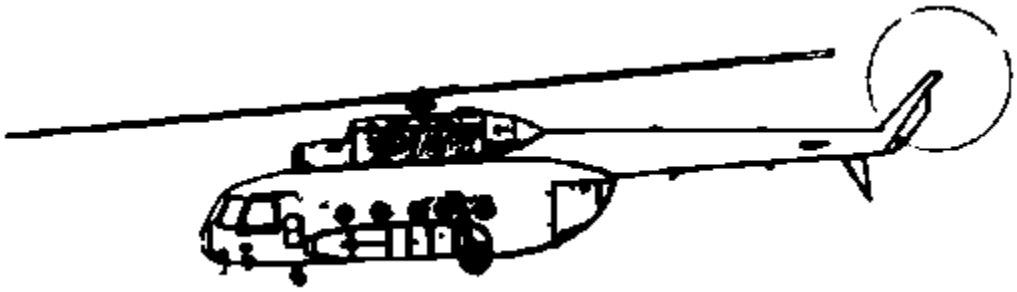


Figure 1-5. Mi-8 HIP.

During the 1973 Middle East War, MOSCOW flew 930 sorties to supply Egypt 15,000,000 tons of supplies. Over a three-month period in 1977-78, the Soviet Union airlifted 600 armored vehicles, numerous tanks, and 400 artillery pieces to Ethiopia. The Soviet airline Aeroflot can augment military airlift with 1,300 aircraft; during the Angolian crisis, Aeroflot flew 14 missions and airlifted 25,000 Cubans to Angola. The VTA can airlift two airborne divisions (14,000 men) a range of 300 miles or one airborne division 1,000 miles.

The Navy. At the end of World War II, the Soviet Navy had a mission and capability which had remained unchanged since the time of Peter the Great--that of coastal defense. Soviet global aspirations and crises of the late 1950s and early 1960s, such as in Lebanon, the Dominican Republic, and the Cuban missile crisis, demonstrated the need for a broadly-based, general purpose navy. Since then, the Soviets have developed a modern navy capable of projecting military, political, and economic influence throughout the world. It operates from the ports in the Mediterranean Sea, Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans, and Caribbean waters from bases in Cuba. The Soviet Navy is composed of the Northern, Pacific, Baltic, and Black Sea Fleets, and the Caspian Sea Flotilla.

The Northern Fleet. Based at Murmansk and Pachenga, the Northern Fleet is the most powerful of the Soviet fleets, poses the greatest threat to the US and the Atlantic Ocean. Armed with surface combatants, submarines, aircraft and ballistic missiles which can strike and interdict North Atlantic sea lanes.

The Pacific Fleet. Including the Indian Ocean Squadron, the Pacific Fleet is slightly larger than the Northern Fleet. It is based in Vladivostok and Petropavlovsk on the Kamchatka Peninsula.

The Baltic and the Black Sea Fleets. These fleets support operations and seizure of critical water passages like the Danish Straits, the Bosphorous, and the Daradenelies.

The Caspian Sea Flotilla. A force of about 40 combatants and auxiliaries, this Flotilla supports ground operations and provides coastal patrolling. The Caspian Sea Flotilla may reinforce other naval units by traveling through the Volga waterway system.

The Soviet Navy has 276 principle combatants, 308 submarines, 311 auxiliaries, and 4 aircraft carriers, and keeps over two-thirds of its fleet in port at any one time.

The Soviet Navy also has a force of naval infantry, similar to the US Marine Corps. There is now a brigade of Soviet Naval Infantry (SNI) stationed with the Pacific Fleet. Further, the Northern, Baltic, and Black Sea Fleets has a brigade of SNI assigned to it. See lesson four for more details concerning the SNI.

Ground Forces. The largest of the Soviet military services. They are highly modernized, well equipped, and have great firepower and mobility. Manpower and material combined make the present Soviet ground forces the most powerful land Army in the world. The main combat power of the ground forces is in tank divisions (TDs) and motorized rifle divisions (MRDS). Airborne troops and special troops, and also part of the Soviet Ground Forces, which includes engineers, signal, chemical, radiotechnical, motor transport, railroad, and highway troops.

Following World War II, Stalin maintained massive ground forces to offset the threat of American nuclear power. As the Soviets developed their own strategic nuclear capability and forces, their emphasis shifted away from the ground forces. Under Krushchev, in the late 1950s and early 1960s, the size of the ground forces was reduced, while strategic rocket forces increased in size. During 1980s, the Soviets are concerned about the growing threat from China and the wars in the Middle East and Far East.

They are increasingly aware a war may be fought without the use of strategic nuclear weapons. For these reasons, the Brezhnev regime emphasized the importance of the ground forces. More than 30 divisions have been added since 1967, and the weapons and equipment of all types have been introduced. Officer and conscript training has been improved. New tactics, strategy, and doctrine have also been developed.

COMMAND AND CONTROL

The Soviets believe any war could involve nuclear weapons, therefore, nuclear delivery means have been assigned at all levels from division up. The Soviets have the largest and most effective array of chemical weapons and equipment in the world and are capable of using chemical agents from battalion up. Reports from Afghanistan indicate they use chemical weapons in any conflicts of violent, sustained, and deep offensive actions. Mechanized and armored formations, supported by aviation and artillery, seize the initiative, penetrate defenses, and drive deeply and rapidly into enemy area.

World War II has taught the Soviets the necessity of having a fully operational strategic command structure. Thus, there is a unified system of command, capable of exerting centralized direction, but designed to permit decentralization of functions to lower levels. The Soviet national military command authority is composed of three major bodies: Council of Defense, the Main Military Council, and the General Staff.

Council of Defense. Planning and preparing the country for war, is the responsibility of the council of defense headed by the General Secretary of the Communist Party. The council is made up of Politiburo members, the Minister of Defense and is the highest military-economic planning agency; it deliberates interrelated issues concerning the nation's defenses, economic plans, and government branches; the mobilization of industry, transportation, and manpower for war, and the peacetime structure of the armed forces. In wartime, it would be the State Committee of Defense, a war cabinet with oversight of political, diplomatic, and economic matters concerned with military operations. (See Figure 1-6.)

Main Military Council. The Council of Defense for leadership and status of the Soviet Armed forces in peacetime. The Minister of Defense heads this council. The chairman of the Council of Defense is a member, as are the First Deputy Ministers of Defense. The ministers include the Chief of the General Staff and the Commander in Chief of the Warsaw Pact Forces. Other members might include the commanders of the five military services, the Chief of the Main Political Administration, the Chief of the Rear Services, and the Chief of Civil Defenses. In wartime, the Main Military Council would be transferred into Headquarters of the Supreme High Command (STAVKA), representing the top echelon of Soviet wartime military control. The General Secretary of the Communist Party, as Chairman of the State Committee of Defense, would become the Supreme Commander in Chief of the Soviet Armed Forces. The STAVKA would plan and direct strategic operations on a global scale within Theaters of Military Operations (TVD), the number of Fronts, their composition, missions, and conduct or operations would be established, it would also monitor the individual Front and fleet actions and supervise the coordination between them.

The General Staff. The major link in the centralization of the Soviet National Military Command Authority, is the General Staff. The General Staff is the executive agency for the Main Military Council in peacetime, and in wartime for the STAVKA. The Soviet General Staff is charged with the basic military planning in the Soviet Armed Forces, both in peace and war. The military services, military districts, and the Groups of Forces outside of the USSR report to Minister of Defense through the General Staff in peacetime.

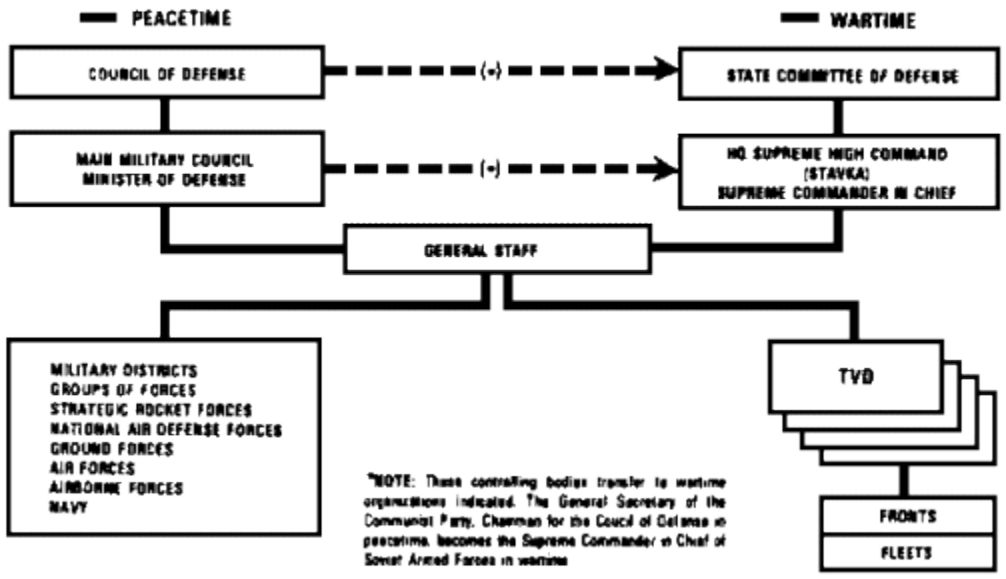


Figure 1-6. The Soviet National Military Command Authority.

In wartime, field forces in a TVD (Fronts and fleets) would report to the Supreme Commander in Chief and the STAVKA through the General Staff. (See Figure 1-6).

Soviet Ground Forces Strength. Soviet ground forces contain 1,825,000 personnel, 2,000,000 trained Army reservists, and 191 ground force divisions with 134 MRDs, 50 TDs, and 7 Airborne divisions. In addition, there are 20 divisions of artillery, which are armed with conventional tubes and multiple rocket launchers (MRLs).

FIELD FORCES ORGANIZATION

The Combined Arms Commands, in peacetime, are the MDs within the Soviet Union and Groups of Forces in Eastern Europe and are subordinate to the Ministry of Defense.

The Military District (MD). A territorial administration command of military areas, recruiting districts, military schools, garrisons and training areas of command. MDs are organized as a Front or other field command for wartime operations.

The 16 MDs. The Soviet Union is divided into 16 MDs. District boundaries coincide with administrative subdivisions comprising the district. An MD may include portions of two adjacent republics or even two or more entire republics. The names of the districts and the location of their headquarters are shown in Figure 1-7.

Groups of Forces. Outside the Soviet Union four major Army units with subordinate AOFs in Soviet bloc nations form the armed forces of the Warsaw Pact under command of a Soviet Marshal. These Soviet forces abroad are the Group of Soviet Forces/Germany (GSFG---11 TDs and 18 MRDs) in East Germany; the Northern Group of Forces (NGF--2 TDs) in Poland; the Central Group of Forces (CGF--2 TDs and 3 MRDs) in Czechoslovakia; and the Southern Group of Forces (SGF--2 TDs and 2 MRDs) in Hungary. The GSFG could constitute a Front organization in wartime, consisting of three to five armies with organic artillery, missile, air defense, engineer, signal, intelligence, reconnaissance, and

rear service units; plus aviation, air assault, and special purpose forces. The other groups are smaller, but could be rapidly expanded to large, highly capable Front organizations. Those divisions outside the USSR and along the borders have the highest degree of readiness. (See Figure 1-7).

The Front. The largest field formation in wartime, the Front is an operational and administrative unit; its size and composition can vary widely depending on the mission and situation. Roughly equivalent to a US/NATO Army group, a Front has three to five armies with organic artillery, missile, air defense, engineer, signal, intelligence, reconnaissance, and rear service units, plus aviation, air assault, and special purpose forces. (See Figure 1-8).

Airborne Division. Assigned on a contingency basis to a Front with special purpose units, whose employment is carefully controlled by the Ministry of Defense. The first unit deployed in Afghanistan was an airborne division.

Artillery Division. Allocated to each Front to provide fire support, its brigades, regiments, and battalions are attached forward to armies or divisions. An artillery division has four artillery brigades, an MRL brigade, an anti-tank brigade, a motor transport battalion, and a target acquisition battalion. (See Figure 1-9.) Heavy artillery brigades have capable guns and heavy mortars and are assigned to the Front, but these are NOT subordinate to the artillery division.

SCUD and SCALEBOARD Surface-to-Surface Missile (SSM) Brigades. Used in a general fire support role for Front operations. These are the Front commander's most readily available chemical and nuclear weapon systems.

The SCALEBOARD and SS-23 SPIDER are being eliminated due to the INF Treaty. Shorter-range SCUDs are not affected by the treaty, and will remain in the forces structure.

SAM Brigades. An integrated Front air defense envelope, these units provide air defense support for the Front and Army rear areas.

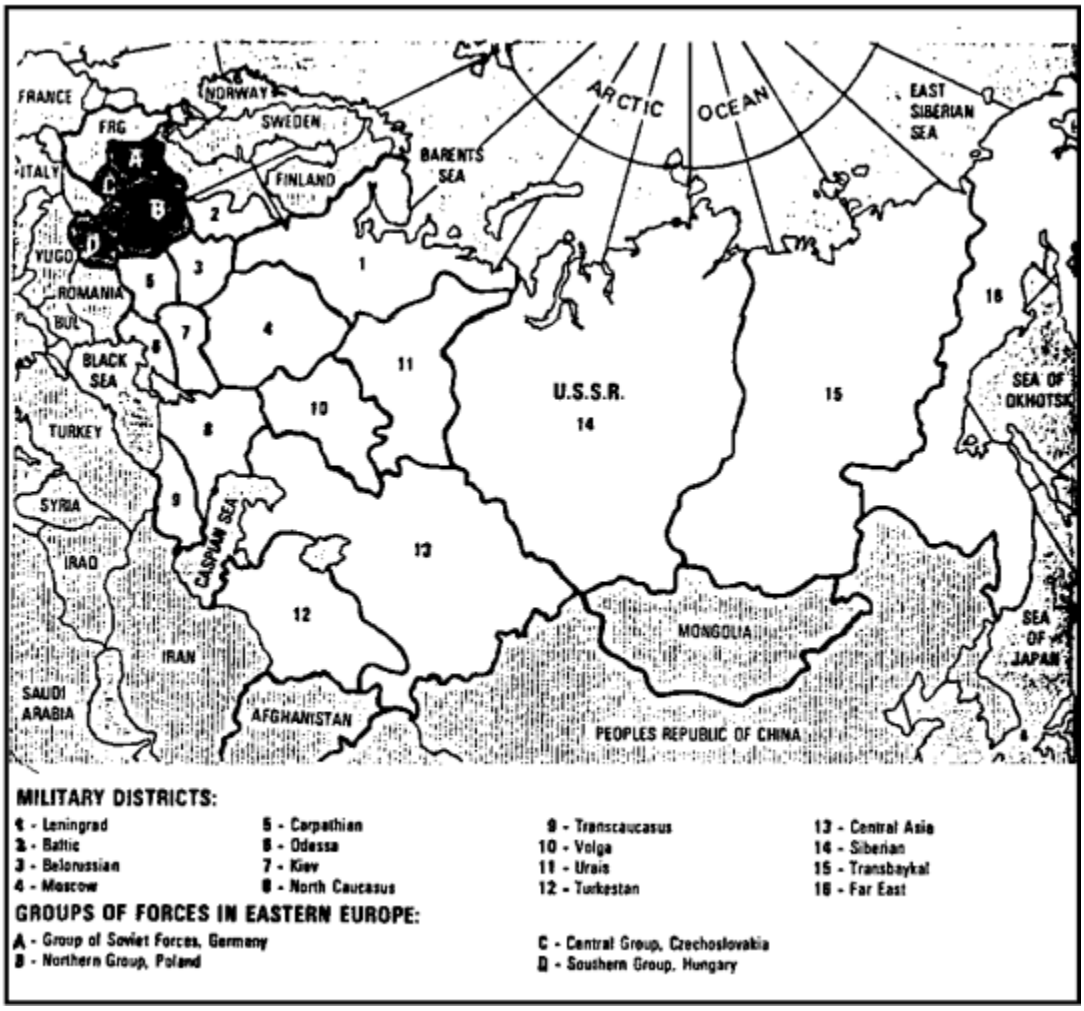


Figure 1-7. Soviet Military Districts and Groups of Forces.

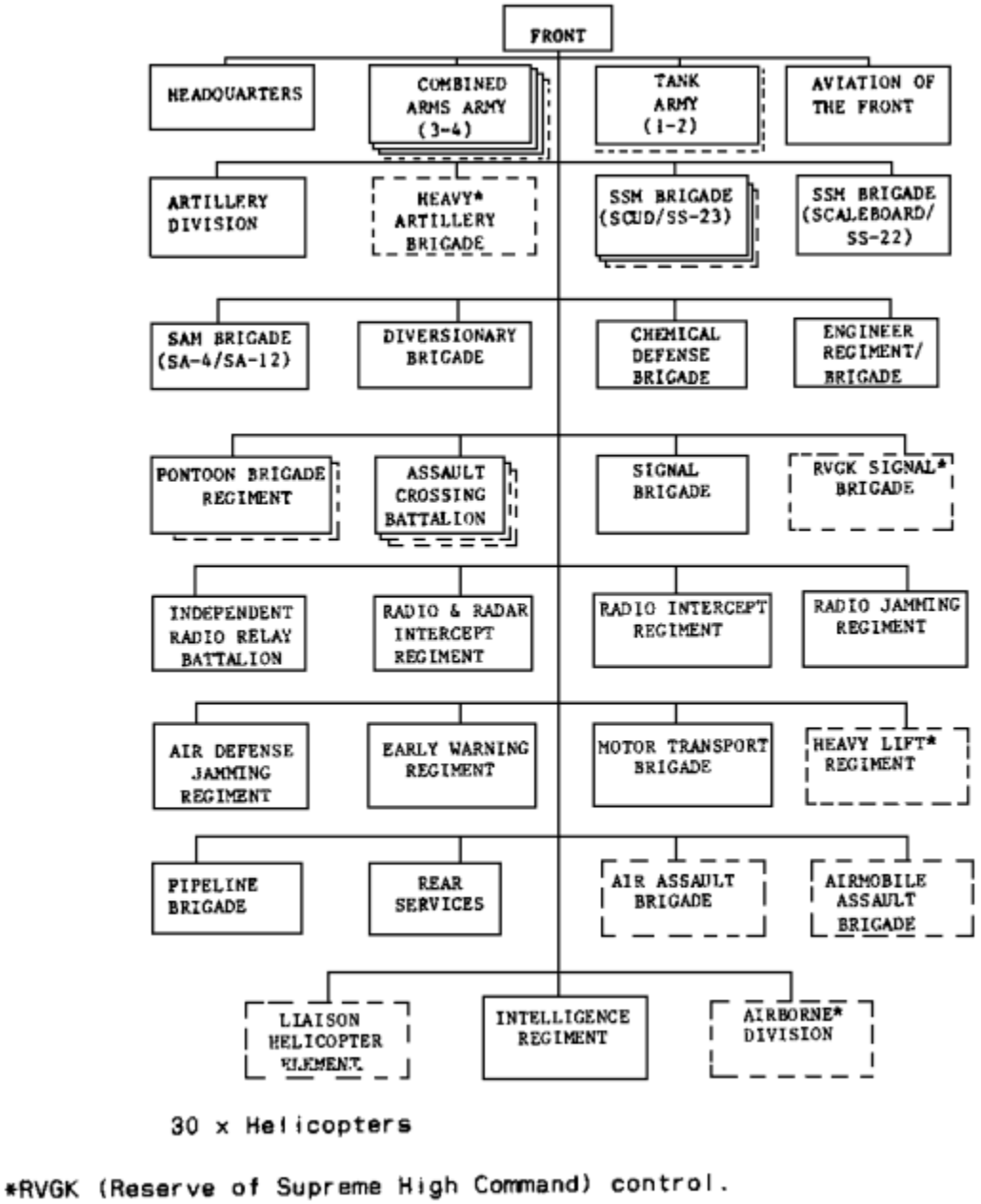
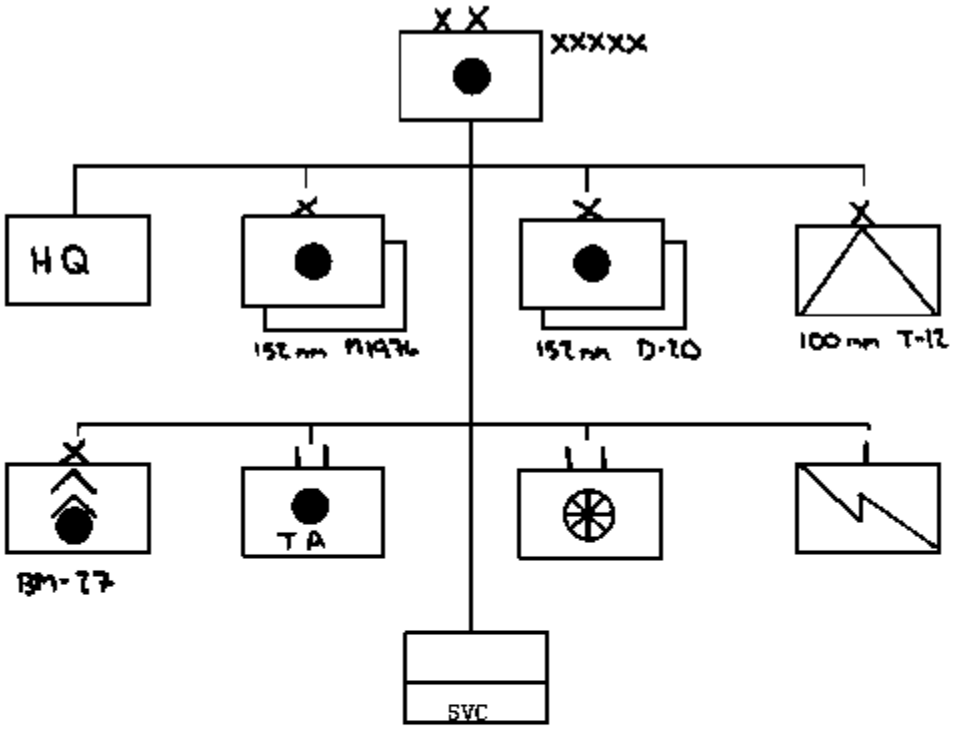


Figure 1-8. Front army Composition.

Engineer Units. These would include combat engineer units (general construction, assault crossing, and pontoon) and logistical support units (pipeline construction and topography).



MAJOR ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT

	18 System Bn	24 System Bn
155mm Gun, M-1972	144	192
152mm How, D-20	144	192
100mm AT Gun, T-12	48	N/A
ATGM, AT-3/5 on BRDM-2	36	N/A
220mm MRL, BM-27	72	N/A

NOTE:
1. Each Brigade consists of four subordinate battalions. These have been 18 System Battalions in the past, but some are being upgraded to 24 System Battalions. The increase in strength is accounted for by the shift from six to eight gun batteries.

2. Some units may still be equipped with 130mm M-46, pending upgrade to 152mm M-1976s.

Figure 1-9. Artillery Division, Front.

Radio-Electronic Combat (REC). Capable of radio and radar intercept, direction finding, and communications jamming. Their mission is to target or jam at least 60 percent of the enemy's key electronic emitters.

Signal Brigades. Provide the Front-to-Army communications via land line, radio, radio/relay, and courier.

The Aviation of the Front (AOF). The largest operational unit of tactical aviation provides reconnaissance, counter-air, support of ground troops, and helicopter lift for airmobile operations. In peacetime, AOFs are subordinate to military districts or groups of Soviet forces; in wartime, they are subordinate to Air Force Frontal Aviation Directorate. (See Figure 1-10).

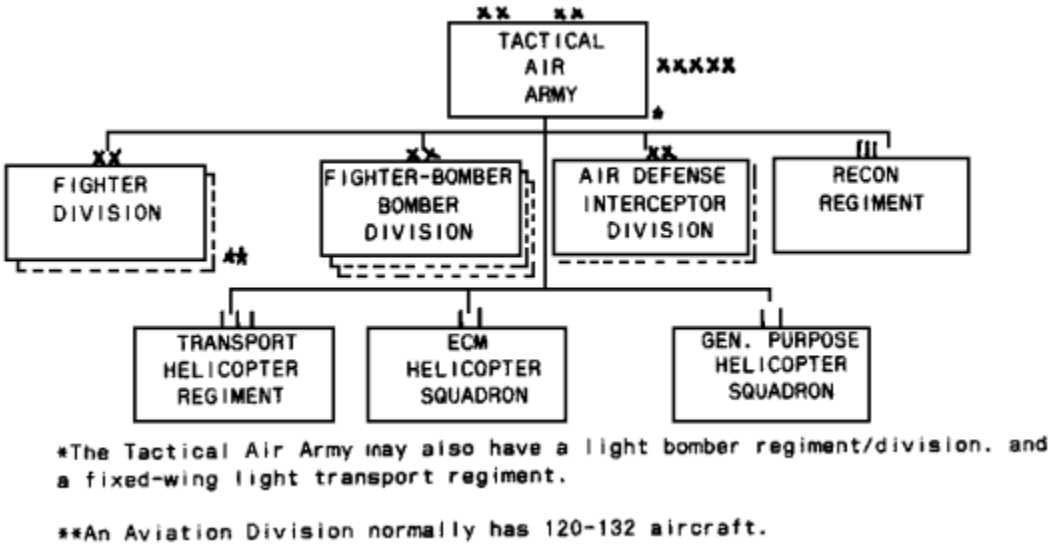


Figure 1-10. Tactical Air Army, Front.

Combined Arms and Tank Armies. The organization of a Soviet Army is flexible, depending upon its mission. The Combined Arms Army (CAA) is an operational and administrative organization having more MRDs than TDs. There are typically two to four MRDs present, and one or two TDs. The numbers and types of combat service support units are tailored to the mission. But a fairly typical structure is shown in Figure 1-11.

CAA Mission in front's first echelon is to destroy enemy resistance on the forward edge of the battle area (FEBA) and create gaps large enough to permit the deployment of front exploitation forces--usually a tank force of the front second echelon--or to penetrate and exploit immediate successes themselves. The army is expected to advance far enough in the first few days to destroy the continuity of enemy tactical defenses, including the corps reserves. The CAA is motorized rifle heavy and thus would be the most likely force to attack well-prepared defensive positions, consisting of antitank defenses. The Soviets studied the 1973 Middle East War very carefully and concluded pure tank forces were very susceptible to modern antitank guided missile systems.

The Tank Army varies from the CAA only in the mix of MRDs and TDs. Specifically, a Tank Army has more tank divisions than motor-rifle divisions. The support forces are identical, both in size and type of units. Of course, just as in a CAA, support forces are tailored to the army's mission. (See Figure 1-12).

The Tank Army has two primary missions: in the offense, exploitation of a penetration; in the defense, counterattack. The tank army may be used as the first echelon (penetration) force under certain special conditions: when enemy anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) defenses are weak, when the enemy has had no time to prepare a defense, when a pursuit is being conducted, or when gaps in the enemy's defense have been created by massive conventional or nuclear fires. The Soviet Army has massive amounts of artillery, some of which is allocated to subordinate divisions, and some of which may be retained for use by the army, especially in the counter-fire role. Besides subordinate divisional artillery, the army has a brigade of guns and howitzers and a regiment of multiple rocket launchers. (See Figure 1-13). The army may allocate these assets to divisions, but will not allocate any of its SSMs. Doctrinally, nuclear release is never allowed lower than army in the Soviet system; further, a division commander

does not have the assets to exploit the 300 km range of these weapons. The army commander also has extension river-crossing capabilities and sufficient motor transport to sustain him in both the offense and defense.

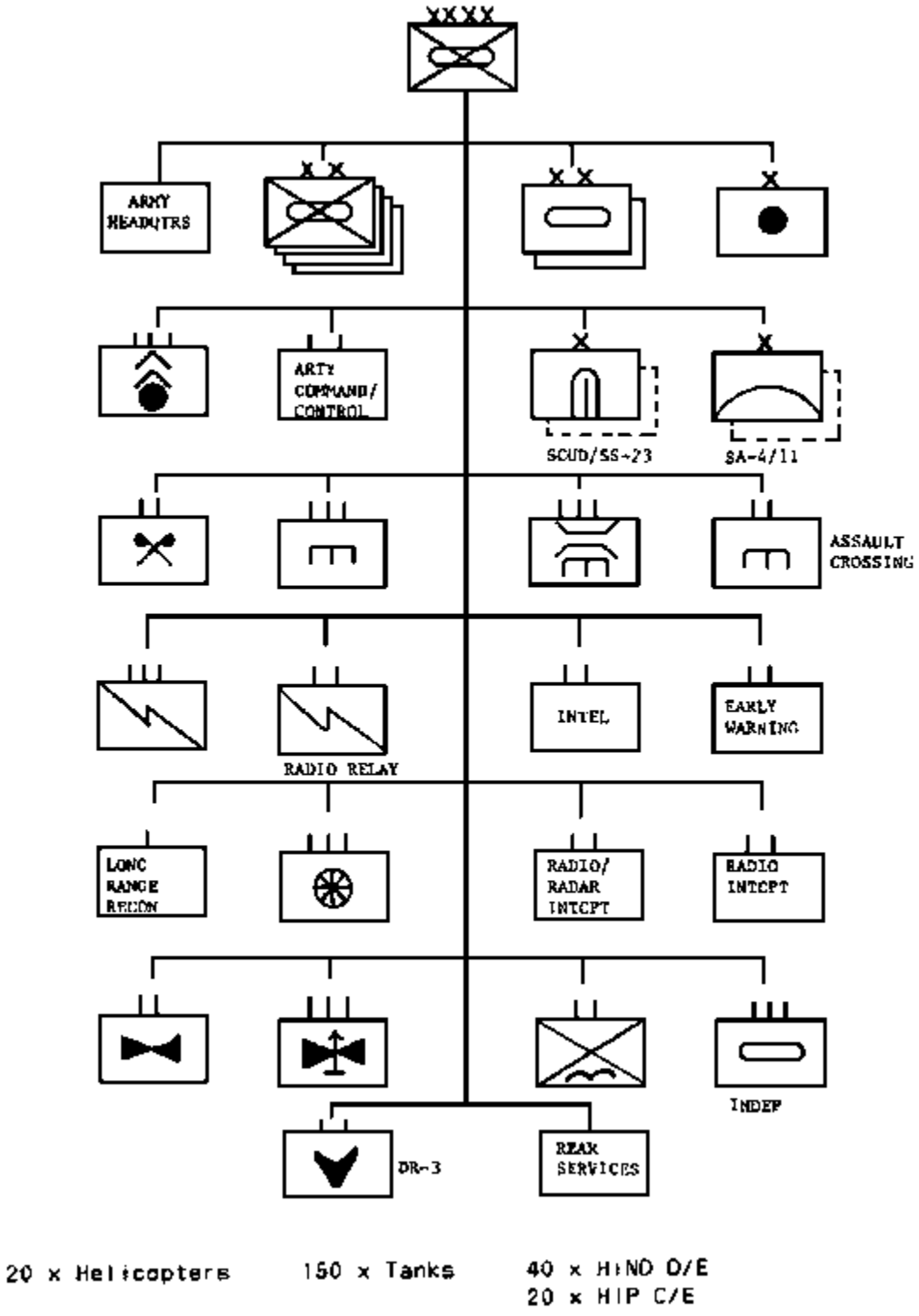


Figure 1-11. Combined Arms Army.

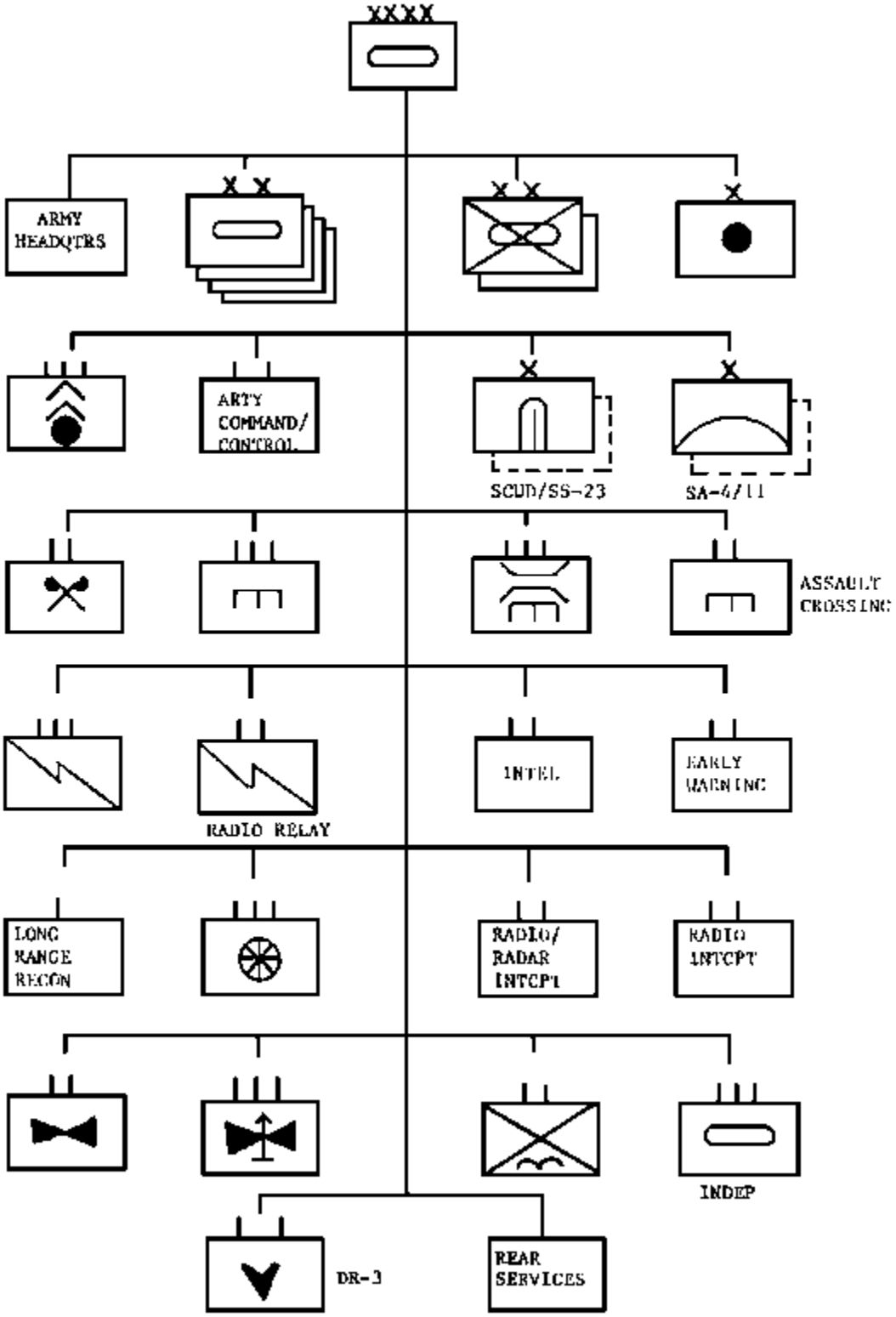


Figure 1-12. Tank Army

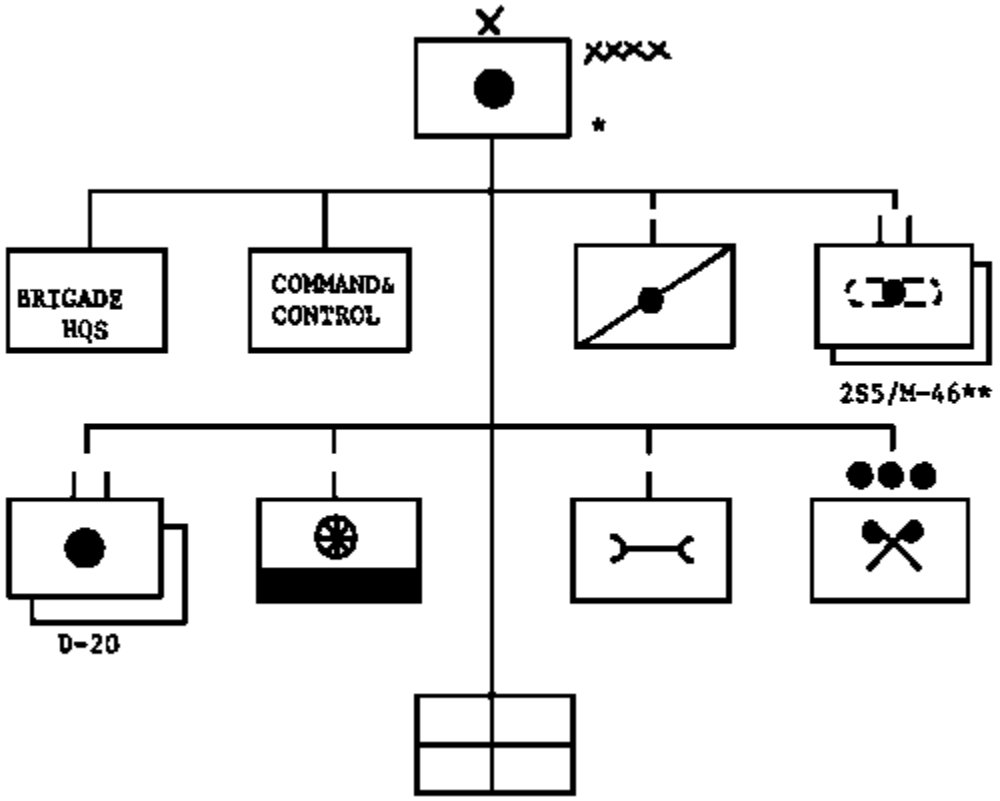


Figure 1-13. Army Artillery Brigade, Tank and combined Arms Army.

* All battalions are equipped with 24 weapons, 8 per battery.

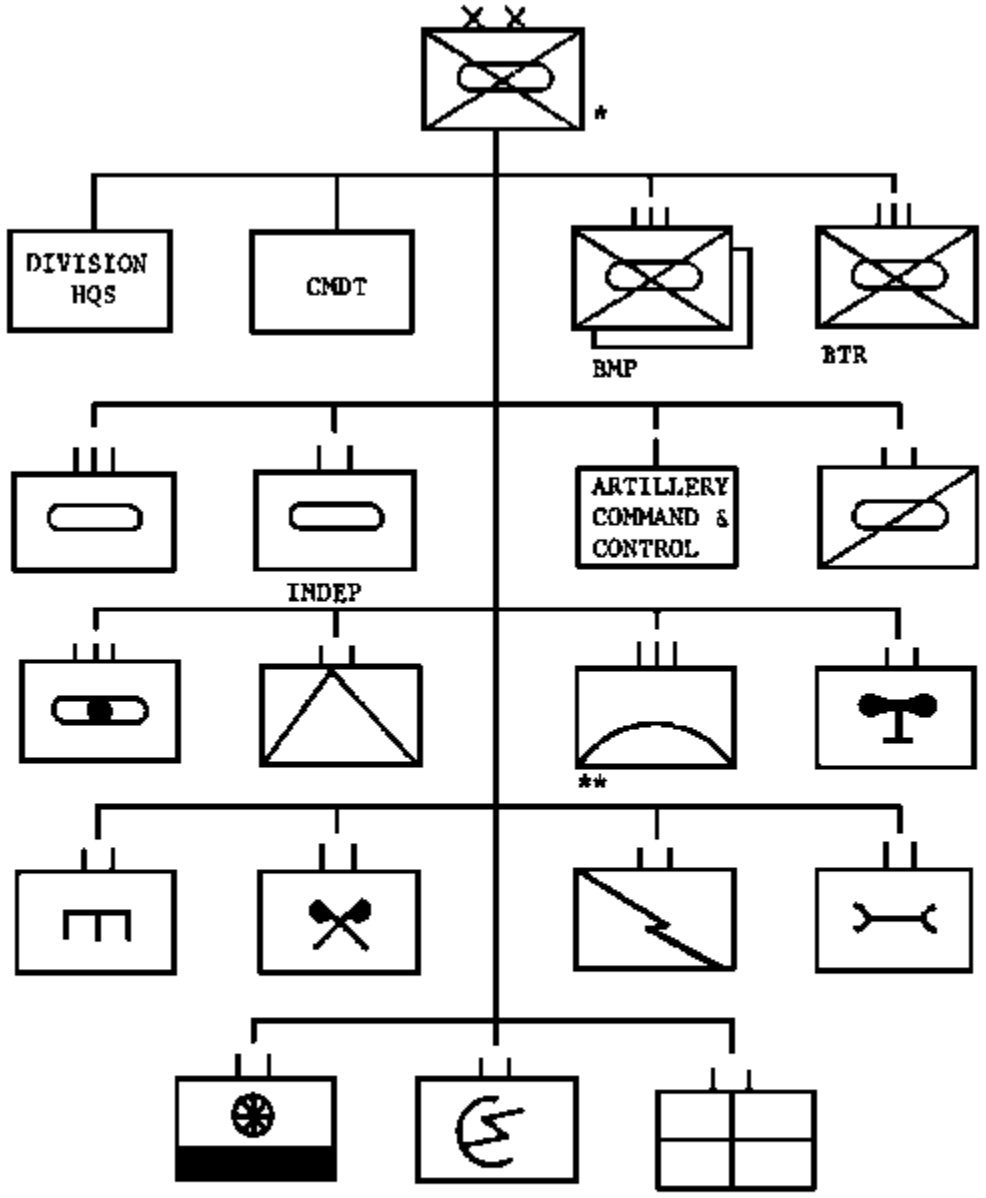
** The 2S5, 152mm self-propelled gun has replaced the M-46, 130mm towed gun in most first-line units of the Soviet Ground Forces. However, some units within the Soviet Union and the Non-Soviet Warsaw Pact will probably continue to use the M-46 for several years to come.

Principal Items of Equipment

Gun self-propelled, 152mm, 255 or towed, 130mm, M-46.....	48
Howitzer, towed, 152mm, D-20.....	48
ACRV, M-1974, Mod 1/2/2A/3.....	21
ACRV, M-1979, BTR-60PA.....	8
ASV, BMP M-1975 Small Fred.....	3
ASV, MTLB M-1975 Big Fred.....	2

ACV, BTR-60PA w/R-145BM.....	1
Tractor, Artillery, AT-S.....	48
Radar, Masterological, End Tray/Leg Drive.....	2

Motorized Rifle Division has four maneuver regiments: three motorized rifle regiments (MRRs), and one tank regiment. Combat support is provided by one artillery regiment, and one D4SAM regiment, an anti-tank battalion, a reconnaissance battalion, a helicopter squadron, engineer, signal, and chemical defense battalions, and an artillery command battery. The tank regiment of the MRD has a howitzer battalion, the MRL battalion is part of the artillery regiment, the reconnaissance battalion has six medium tanks, and the helicopter squadron is in the division organization for the first time. Combat service support is provided by motor transport, maintenance, and medical battalions as well as a mobile field bakery. (See Figure 1-14).



* The division-level SS-21 Battalions have been consolidated into SS-21 Brigades at Army

** The Division may have a Regiment of SA-6, or SA-8 Surface-to-Air Missiles, or a regiment of S-60 anti-aircraft guns.

Figure 1-14. Motorized Rifle Division.

The Motorized Rifle Regiment (MRR). The MRR is the basic combined arms organization and most common maneuver element of the Soviet ground forces. Motorized rifle, armor, artillery, anti-aircraft artillery, anti-tank, engineer, signal, and combat service assets are organic to the MRR. The MRR is the smallest organization in which all of these elements are represented and resembles division

organization, with three motorized rifle battalions (MRBs) and one tank battalion, a 122mm howitzer battalion, and three 120mm mortar batteries, one battery organic to each MRB. The MRR is equipped with the BMP or BTR series of troop-carrying vehicles. (See Figure 1-15 and 1-16.)

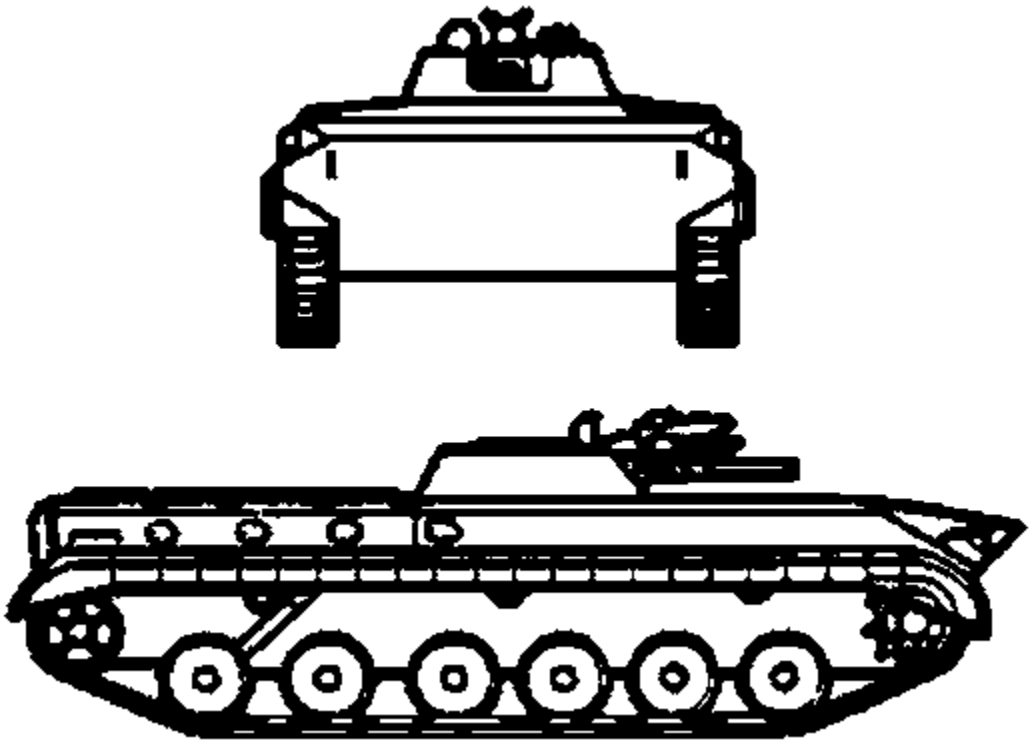


Figure 1-15. BMP-2.

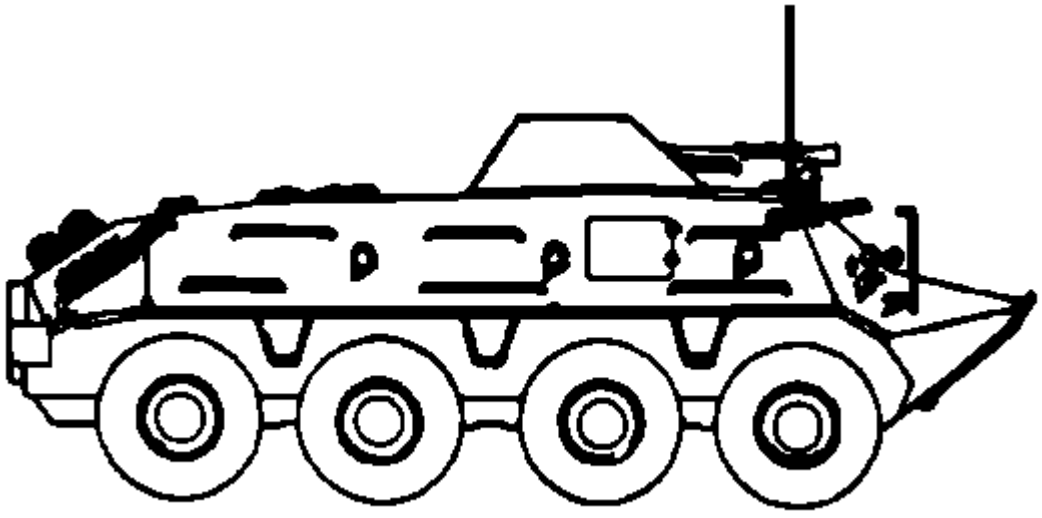


Figure 1-16. BTR 60 PA/70/80.

Both BMP and BTR regiments are equipped with the AC4GS-17 automatic grenade launcher within MRBs. The BMP regiments have a battalion of 122mm self-propelled howitzers, the BTR regiments

have 122mm towed howitzers (D-30) and anti-tank platoons within the MRBs, a feature not found in the BMP regiments. (See Figures 1-19 and 21.)

Tank battalions of both BMP- and BTR-equipped MRR are composed of 40 medium tanks; the T-64, T-72, or T-80. (See Figure 1-17 and 1-18.)

Figure 1-17. T-64.

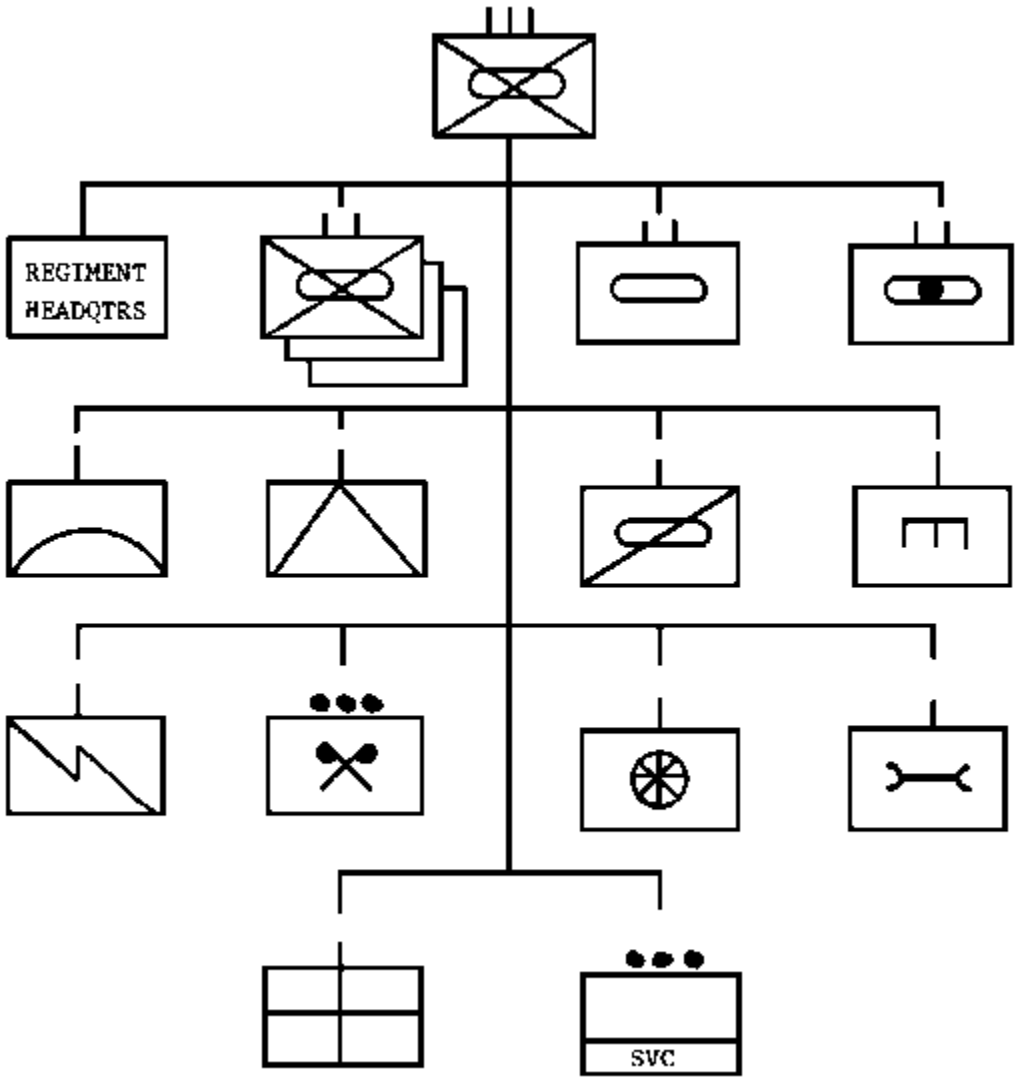


Figure 1-18. Motorized Rifle Regiment (BMP), MRD and TD.

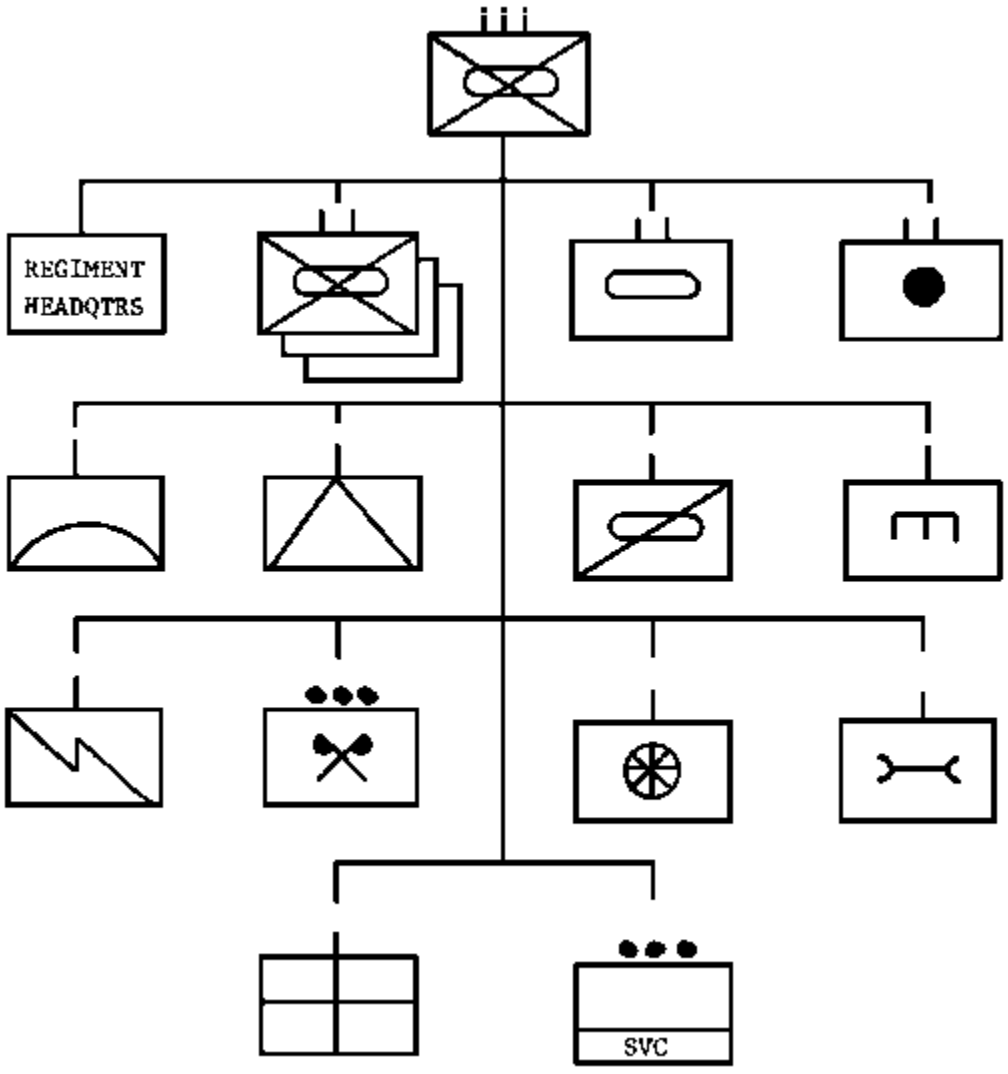


Figure 1-19. MOTORIZED RIFLE REGIMENT (BTR). MRD.

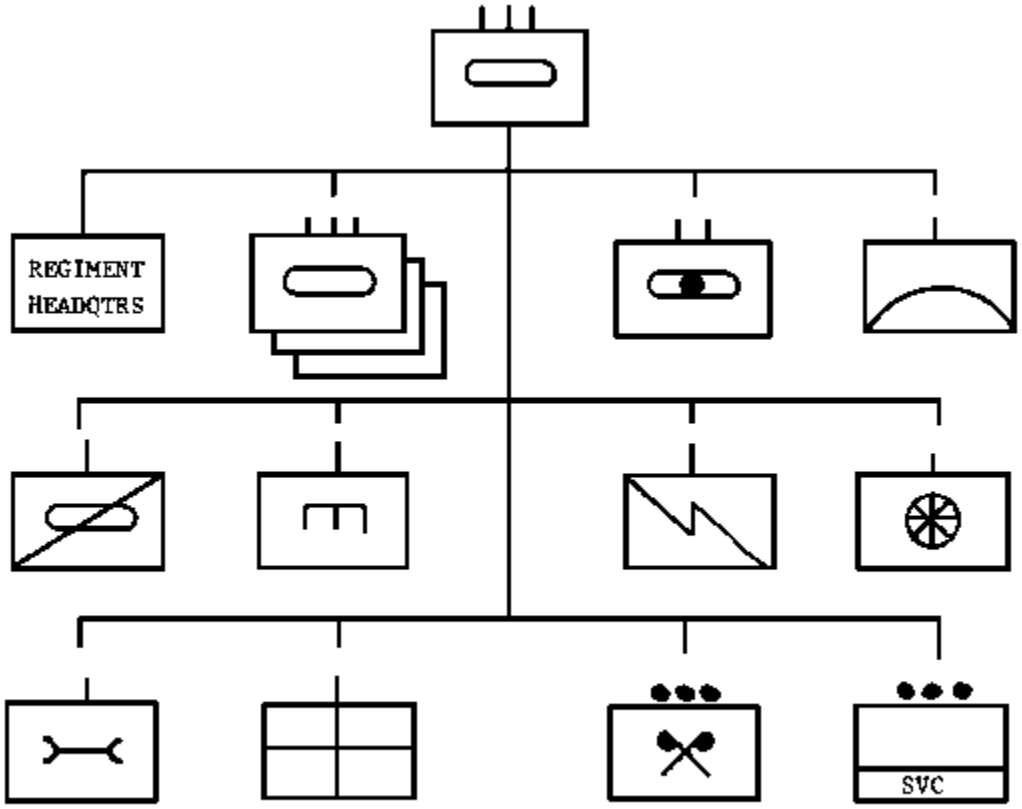


Figure 1-20. Tank Battalion. Motorized Rifle Regiment. MRD and TD.

The Tank Division has three medium tank regiments, an MRR, an artillery regiment, a SAM regiment, a reconnaissance battalion, a signal battalion, a chemical defense battalion, an engineer battalion, and service support elements. The subordinate elements of the TD and the MRD are identical or similar, but has more combat equipment and personnel than MRD. (See Figure 1-21.)

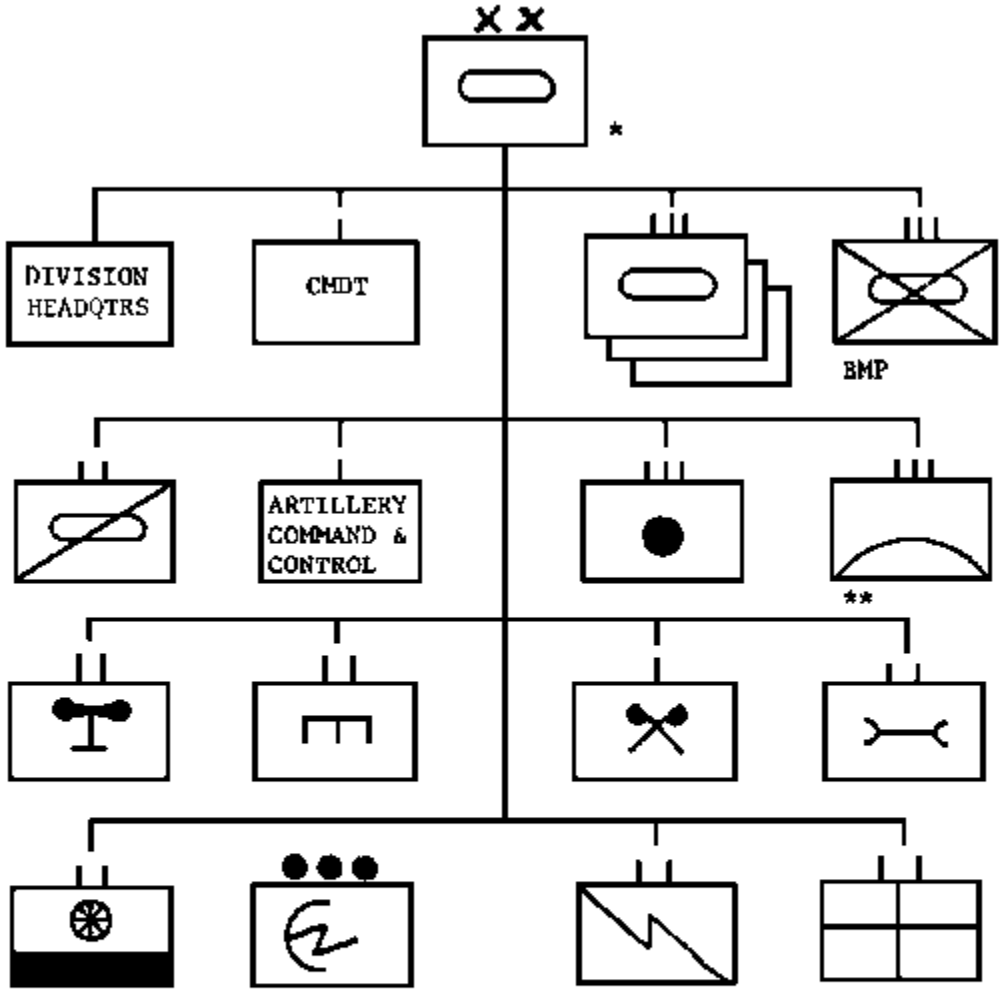
The Tank Regiment. Tank regiments of the TD consist of five combat and service support battalions: three tank battalions of 31 tanks each, one motorized rifle battalion, and one howitzer battalion. The howitzer battalion is an addition to the regimental structure, and is composed of 122mm self-propelled howitzers. The tank regiment is an upgrade in motorized rifle assets from company to battalion strength, equipped with the BMP. These battalions are identical to the BMP battalions found in the motorized rifle regiments with BMPs. Tank regiments of TDs resemble MRRs by having five combat and service support battalions, and tank-heavy in terms of combat power. (See Figure 1-22.)

The Airborne Division. Being fully motorized, increases its combat power, mobility and airdrop capability. The BMD amphibious airborne combat vehicle is in all three of its airborne (infantry) regiments. Combat support is provided by an artillery regiment, an assault gun (ASU-85) battalion, and an anti-aircraft battalion. (See Figure 1-23.)

The artillery regiment is a unique structure. It has only two subordinate battalions: one battalion of 18 D-30 122mm howitzers and one battalion of 12 D-30's and 6 GAZ-66 mounted multiple rocket launchers. The D-30 is the same weapon found in BTR regiments. The GAZ-66 MRL is unique to airborne/ air assault forces. It is a light system with 12 launcher tubes, firing the same rocket as the BM-21.

The Airborne Regiment has three airborne battalions and one mortar battery, one ATGM battery, and one anti-aircraft battery. (See Figure 1-24.)

Each regiment is equipped with approximately 100 BMDs in 4 different configurations. The basic BMD is the standard squad vehicle. The BMD M-1979/1 is used by weapon squads within companies, and the BMD M-1979/3 is used as a command vehicle at battalion and regimental headquarters. A fourth variant, the BMD M-1981/1, has been identified, although its role and deployment pattern have not yet been determined. (See Figure 1-25.)



* The Division-level SS-21 battalions have been consolidated into SS-21 brigades at Army.

** The Division may have a regiment of SA-6, or SA-8 surface-to-air missiles, or a S-60 57mm anti-aircraft gun.

Figure 1-21. Tank Division.

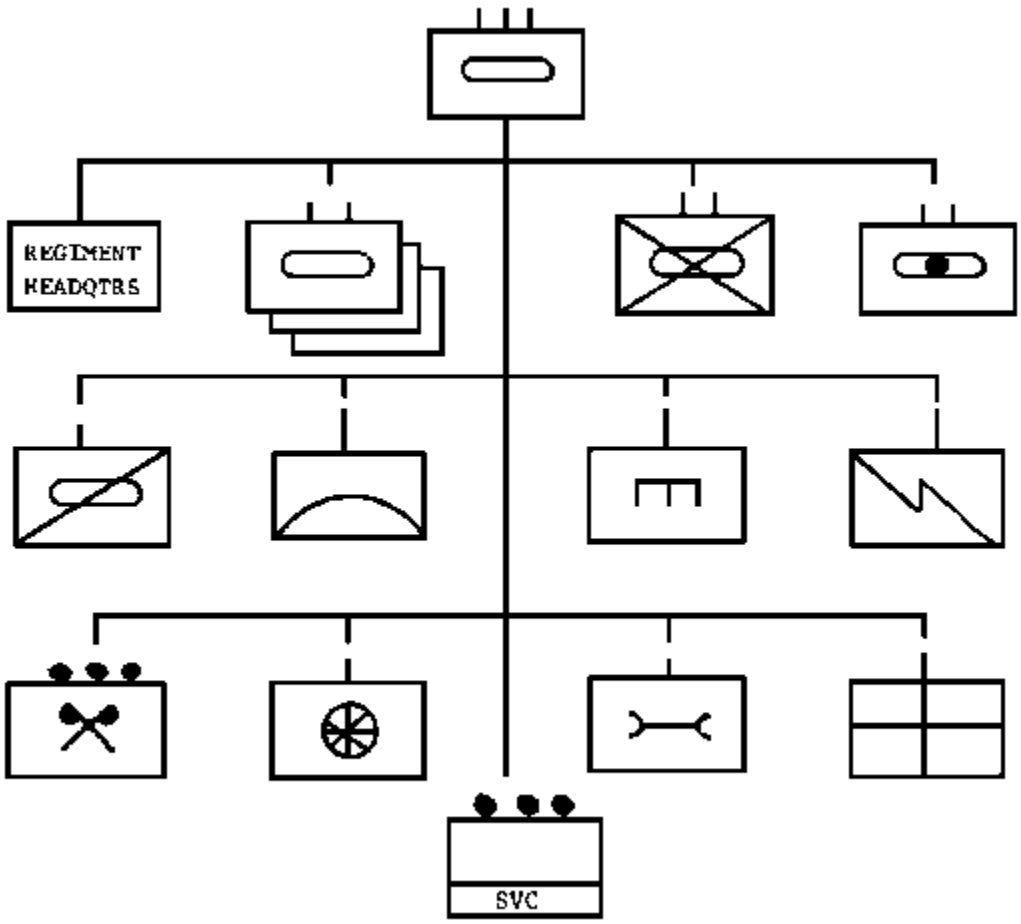


Figure 1-22. Tank Regiment.

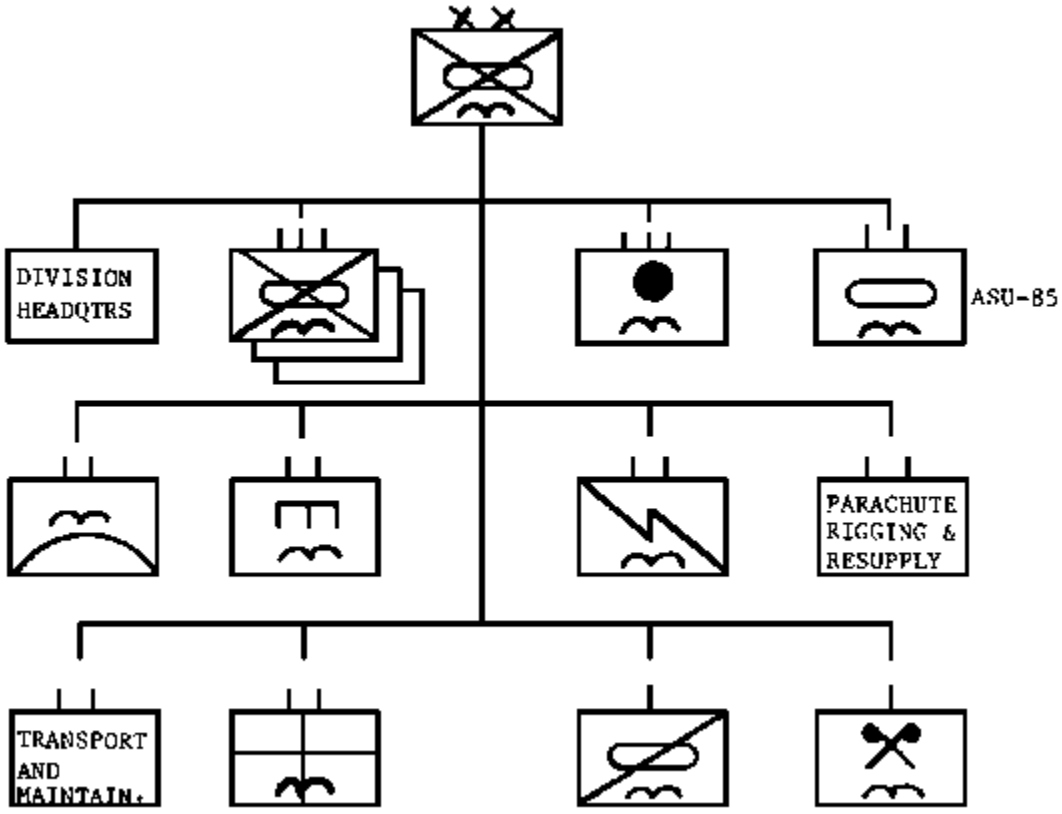


Figure 1-23. Airborne Division.

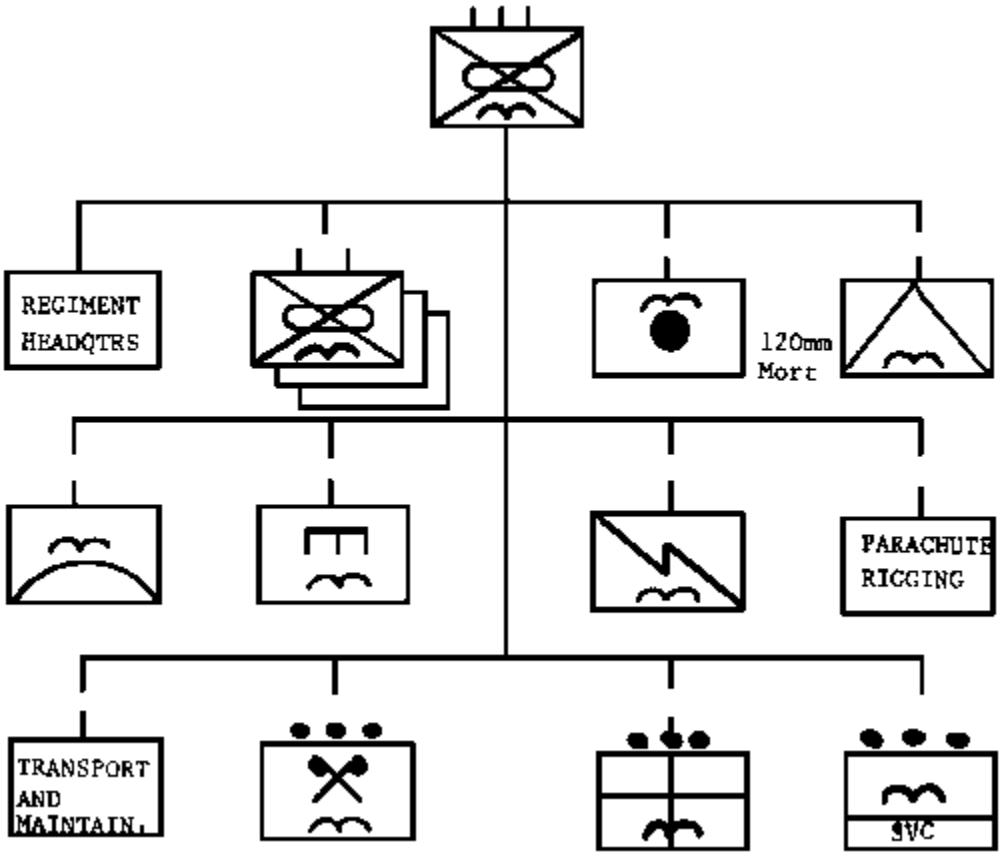


Figure 1-24. Airborne Regiment.

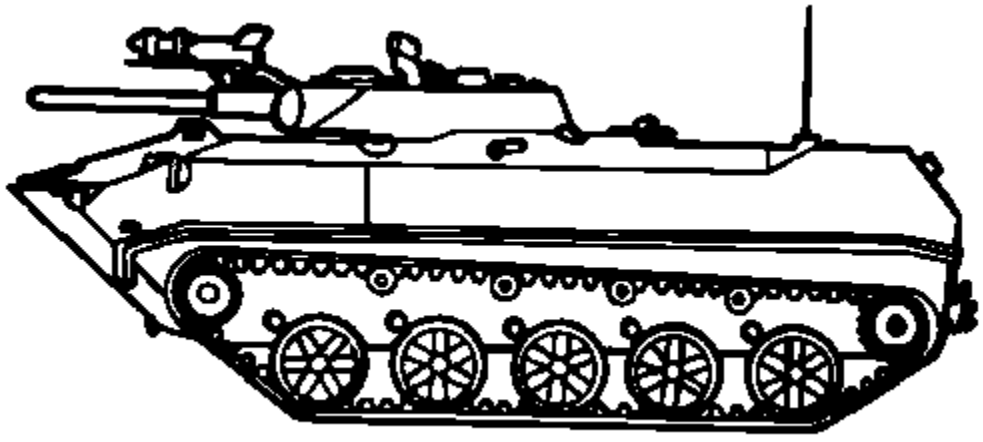


Figure 1-25. BMD M1981/1.

PRACTICE EXERCISE

LESSON 1

INSTRUCTIONS:

The following items will test your grasp of the material covered in this lesson. There is only one correct answer for each item. When you have completed the exercise, check your answers with the answer key that follows. If you answer any item incorrectly, study again that part of the lesson which contain the portion involved.

1. The Soviet's intercontinental ballistic missiles are organic to which of the following?

   ○ a. National air defense forces.

   b. Air force.

   c. Strategic rocket forces.

   d. Ground forces.

2. The bombing of strategic targets, enemy missile sites, nuclear arsenals, naval bases, strategic bomber bases, and war industries is the mission of which of the following?

   a. Frontal aviation.

   b. Long-range aviation.

   c. Military transport aviation.

   d. None of the above.

3. Aviation of the front is comparable to which USAF organization?

   a. MAO.

   b. TAC.

   c. SAC.

   d. None of the above.

4. Naval infantry brigade are found with which of the following?

   a. The Soviet Navy.

   b. Soviet ground forces.

   c. Soviet special forces.

   d. Both a and b.

5. The main combat power of the Soviet ground forces is deployed under combined arms commands and centered in which of the following?

    a. Artillery and air defense divisions.

    b. Tank and armored personnel divisions.

    c. Motorized rifle and tank divisions.

    d. Nuclear and chemical capability of the Strategic Rocket Forces.

6. The mission of the radio-electronic combat units assigned to the Front will be to target or jam at least _____ percent of the enemy's key electronic emitters.

    a. 30.

    b. 40.

    c. 60.

    d. 75.

7. Three motorized rifle regiments, one tank regiment, one artillery regiment, and one SAM regiment are the basic units of which of the following?

    a. Tank division.

    b. Combined arms army.

    c. Motorized rifle division.

    d. Tank army.

8. The tank battalion of a motorized rifle regiment of an MRD and TD has ____ medium tanks.

    a. 31.

    b. 40.

    c. 51.

    d. 60.

9. BEAR, BISON, BADGER, BLINDER, and BACKFIRE are all examples of assets belonging to which of the following?

    a. Long-range aviation of the Soviet Air Force.

    b. Soviet ground forces.

    c. National air defense force.

    d. Military transport aviation.

LESSON TWO

SOVIET OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS

MQS Manual Tasks: 01-3353.01-0010

OVERVIEW

TASK DESCRIPTION: In this lesson you will become familiar with all Soviet offensive formations and types of maneuver with emphasis on tactical offensive operations.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE:

ACTIONS: Describe tactical formations and movement employed by the Soviet from one point to another on the battlefield.

CONDITIONS: You will be given narrative information and illustration from FM 100-2-1, 100-2-2, and 100-2-3, and FM 1-402.

STANDARDS: You as the intelligence officer must know the different types of tactical formations the Soviet have and can employ in any given situation.

REFERENCES: The material contained in this lesson was derived from the following publications:

FM 1-402
FM 100-2-1
FM 100-2-2
FM 100-2-3

INTRODUCTION

The Soviets emphasize swift, efficient movement of combat power from one point on the battlefield to another. This is accomplished by movement in march formation, prebattle formation, and attack formation. Strictly controlled and frequently rehearsed, transition from march column into prebattle and attack formation is practiced for a rapid transition into combat with security, speed, and firepower.

TACTICAL FORMATIONS AND MOVEMENTS

The March. Conducted in column formation on roads or cross-country. An administrative move from one point to another is planned and conducted with the expectation of contact. A march is used from a rear assembly area to a forward assembly area or to launch an attack from the march in anticipation of a meeting engagement, during pursuit, or when conducting a passage of lines.

March Norms. The following norms apply in preparation for a march.

* A division is assigned either a march zone or march routes. As many as four routes are possible

* A regiment is normally assigned one or two routes.

* A battalion marches on one route.

* Distance between routes should be at least 3 kilometers to ensure two units will not be destroyed by one enemy nuclear weapon.

March formation elements. March formation consists of reconnaissance, advance guard, flank security elements, the main force, and rear security element. The focus for march planning is security of the main force and creation of conditions for its successful commitment into battle.

A division on the march is preceded by a reconnaissance battalion. Scout elements of the reconnaissance battalion may operate 50 kilometers forward of the division. A regiment is preceded by a reconnaissance company, whose scouts may operate 25 kilometers forward of the division. Reconnaissance force obtains information about location of enemy nuclear delivery systems, movement of enemy columns, strength and composition of the enemy, lines and routes of march, and locations of contaminated areas.

Advance Guard precedes the main force and provides security. It consists of one-third of the total combat power of the main force. For example, the advance guard for an MRR, is an MRB reinforced with tank, artillery, anti-tank, antiaircraft, engineer, and chemical elements.

March Considerations include dispersion, rate of march, and march order. Particularly under nuclear conditions, march formations must ensure dispersion both laterally and in depth. A division will attain lateral dispersion by marching in a zone up to 25 kilometers wide on as many as four routes, each separated by 3 to 4 kilometers. The average rate of march is based on the total route distance and the time allowed for the march. Dispersion in depth is the intervals between units and vehicles with requirements for timely commitment of forces in case of enemy contact.

Prebattle Formation. For speed, the Soviets prefer to remain in column, or march formation. Lateral deployment is used when combat is imminent. Prebattle formation advances dispersed, laterally and in depth when approaching the battlefield, or moving in the enemy's rear area, attacking enemy defenses, crossing nuclear contaminated zones, and areas that are burning or obstructed. This formation minimizes the target for enemy tactical nuclear, artillery, and air strikes. It facilitates rapid maneuver and quick deployment into attack formation, or return to march formation. In prebattle formation, a regiment advances with its battalions deployed on line, in a forward or reverse wedge, or echeloned left or right. Each battalion is, in turn, organized internally into one of these formations, while its companies move in march column within the formation.

Attack Formation is formed immediately before combat. This entire unit disperses into line wedge, or echelon formations, based on the situation. Tanks on line precede BTRs or BMPs. If troops dismount, they follow closely behind the tanks. The BTRs or BMPs follow between 100 to 400 meters behind the tanks. Attack formation is assumed between 300 and 1,000 meters of enemy positions.

ATTACK AGAINST DEFENDING ENEMY

An attack follows a plan, based on mission, enemy, terrain, troops, and time available (METT-T).

Principles of Attack Doctrine. The principles of Soviet attack doctrine are:

* Conduct aggressive reconnaissance.

* Breach enemy defenses at weak points and create gaps.

* Maneuver against enemy flanks and rear to bypass strong points.

* Rapidly maneuver forces and mass fires in decisive direction with priority to destruction of enemy nuclear weapon systems.

* Strike rapidly and deeply into the enemy's rear.

* Maintain momentum under all conditions.

* Empty radioelectronic combat.

Methods of Attack. The two methods of an attack against a defending enemy are attack from the march and attack from a position in direct contact.

Attack from the March is the preferred method of attack. It is launched from a march formation out of assembly areas in the rear. Subunits deploy laterally at designated control lines and assume attack formation within approximately 1,000 meters of enemy defenses.

The Soviet advantages of the attack from the march are that the unit is not committed before an attack allowing surprise and flexibility; less vulnerability to enemy artillery; and enhanced momentum.

The disadvantages of the attack from the march are commanders are not familiar with the terrain and enemy dispositions, and it is difficult to coordinate fire and maneuver.

Attack from a Position in Direct Contact. The least preferred method, launched from part of, or immediately behind, a defense position.

An attack from a position in direct contact allows a study of terrain and enemy disposition and permits more refined organization of battle to coordinate fire and maneuver. These are advantages.

Its disadvantages are less chance of surprise, less chance to build up momentum and overcome inertia, units may be already committed and are under threat of attack during preparation.

Maneuver Forms. The three basic maneuver forms in the attack are the frontal attack, envelopment, and flank attack. These may be used in either the attack from the march, or from positions in direct contact.

The Frontal Attack is against front-line forces to penetrate defenses along single or multiple axes. A frontal attack creates openings for offensive maneuver to penetrate and depends on superiority of forces and firepower, reserves, and planning. The frontal attack is the least preferred form of maneuver, and is normally used with a flank attack or an envelopment. (See Figures 2-1 and 2-2.)

The Flank Attack strikes enemy forces in their flank or rear at a relatively shallow depth. Fire support is maintained between forces conducting the flank attack and those conducting a simultaneous frontal attack. (See Figure 2-1.)

The Envelopment is a deeper attack that causes the enemy to turn and fight in a new direction. It is launched against enemy flanks or through gaps or breaches. There is no requirement for mutual fire support with forces conducting a frontal attack. (See Figure 2-2.) This is the preferred form of maneuver.

Conduct of the Attack. A division conducts an attack as part of its parent army under the control of a Front. A division attacking in the first-echelon would penetrate enemy forward defenses, attack through the enemy brigade rear, and continue the attack to the full tactical depth, the enemy division rear area.

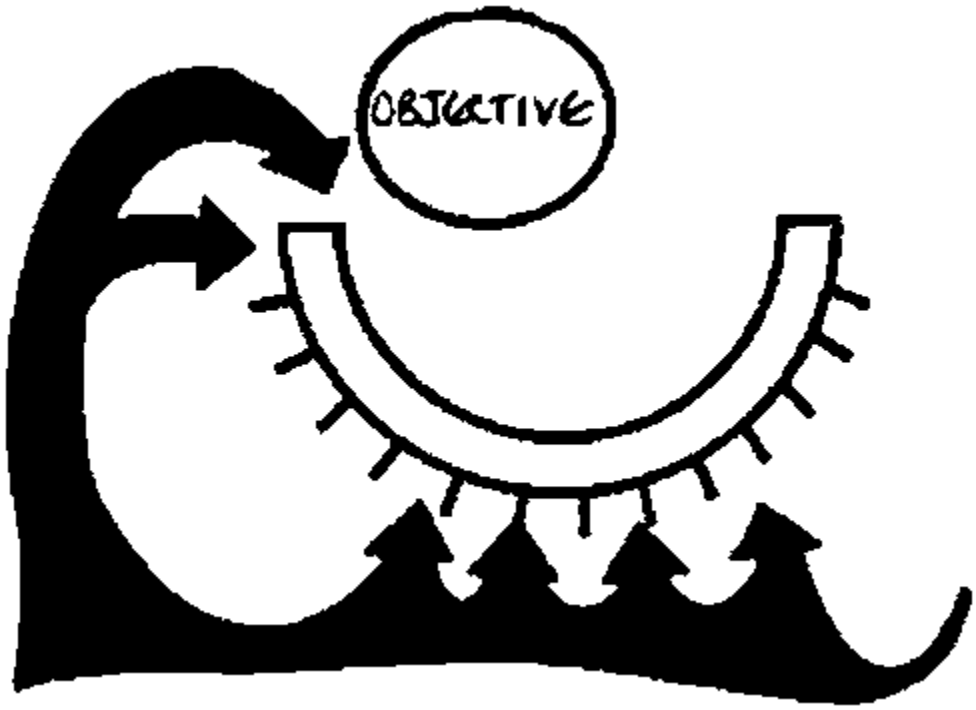


Figure 2-1. The Flank Attack.

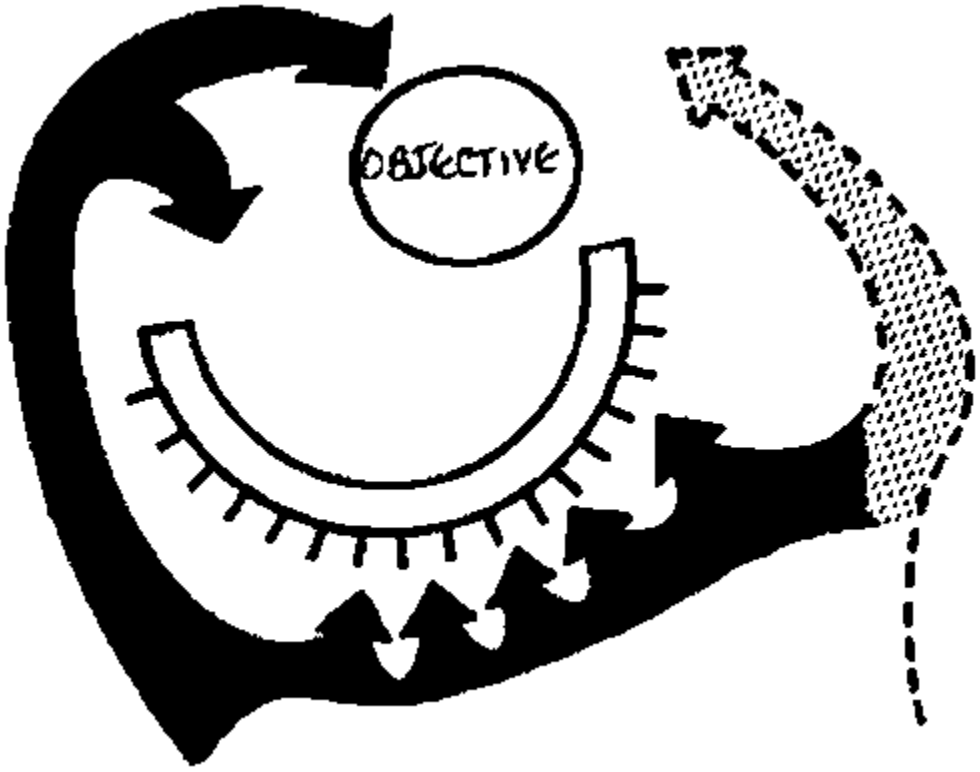


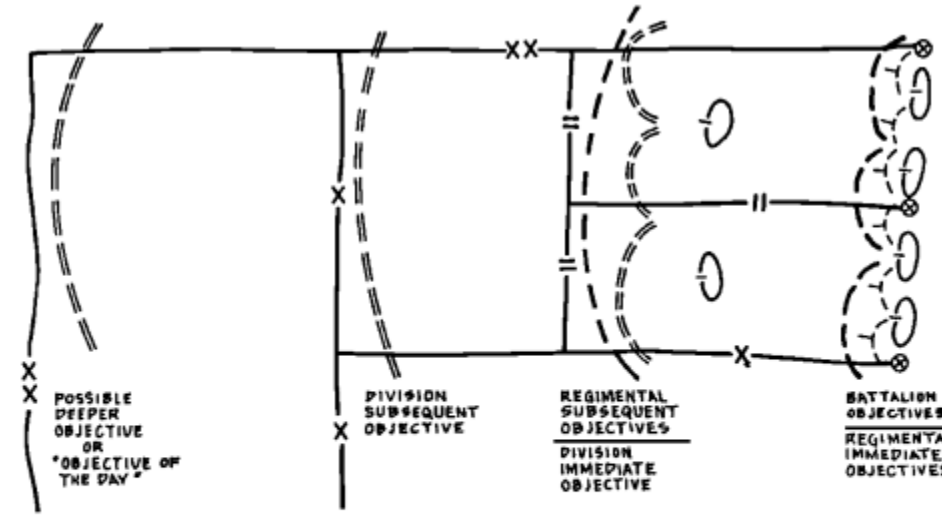
Figure 2-2. The Envelopment.

Soviet Tactical Objectives are dashed lines on a terrain map, at various depths, based on enemy dispositions and modified because of terrain. An objective requires units to attack to the limit of the objective line and destroy or neutralize enemy troops, weapons, equipment, and support systems.

The Objective Lines, are assigned by higher command. Divisions are assigned an immediate objective, a subsequent objective, and/or an objective of the day. Regiments are assigned immediate and subsequent objectives. Battalions and companies, are assigned an immediate objective and direction of attack. At the tactical level, objectives form a progressively higher and deeper hierarchy. The depths of objectives are not fixed but vary with the situation. Figure 2-3 shows hierarchy of objectives for a division attacking in an Army first echelon. As the offensive continues and enemy resistance decreases, objective depths would increase and a division objective of the day could be as deep as 80 kilometers.

To achieve these objectives, divisions normally attack in two echelons, and employ a reserve. The first-echelon contains the bulk of the combat power (up to three regiments). The remaining maneuver forces are found in either the second echelon, or the reserve.

The second echelon is given a stated, explicit, mission. This mission is usually to seize the subsequent objective. Reserves, on the other hand, do not have a mission per se', but are a contingency force.



OBJECTIVE DEPTHS

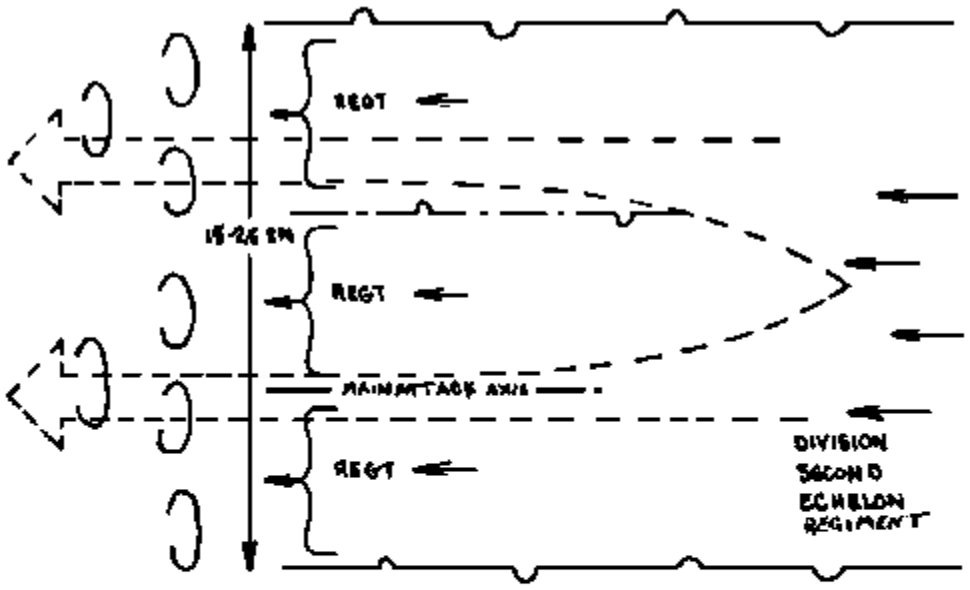
	IMMEDIATE	SUBSEQUENT	FINAL
DIVISION	ENEMY BATTALION REAR	ENEMY BRIGADE REAR	ENEMY DIVISION REAR
REGIMENT	FORWARD DEFENSES OF ENEMY BATTALION	ENEMY BATTALION REAR	
BATTALION	ENEMY FORWARD PLATOON AND COMPANY STRONG POINTS	DIRECTION FOR CONTINUATION OF ATTACK	

*OBJECTIVES ASSIGNED BASED ON MAINTAINING A MINIMUM 3-1 ADVANTAGE IN MANEUVER FORCES COMBAT POWER

Figure 2-3. Possible Hierarchy of Tactical Objective for Attack Against Defending Enemy.

The Reserve. There are three types of reserve: combined arms reserve, the anti-tank reserve, and special reserves (engineers and chemical defense troops). The tactical situation determines the strength and composition of each reserve force. For a division, a typical reserve force is battalion size and has no preplanned mission, acting as a contingency force.

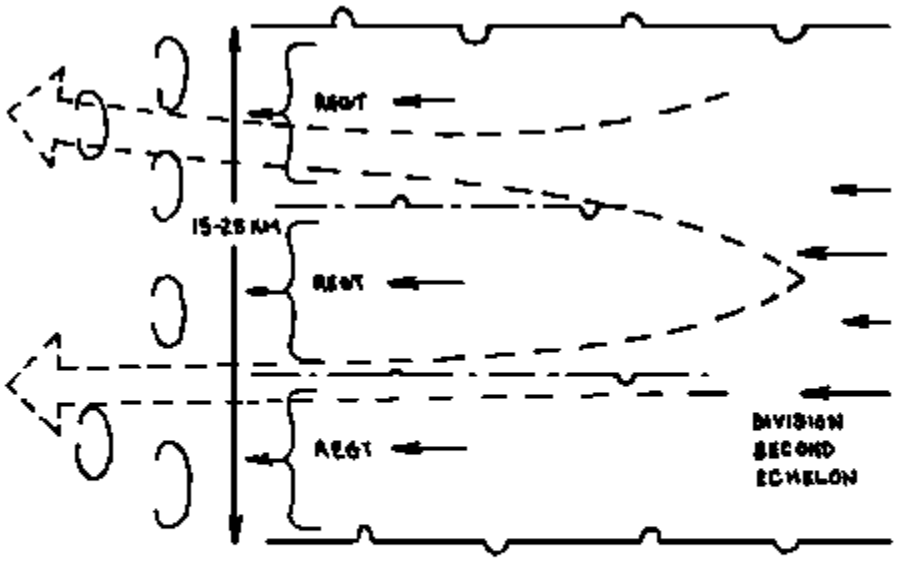
Within the division's attack zones, a main attack axis is based on terrain, enemy defenses, or orders. Two of its first-echelon regiments would attack abreast along the main attack axis. The other first-echelon regiment would conduct a supporting attack. (See Figure 2-4.) Follow-on forces include a second-echelon regiment and a small reserve to continue the attack. The second-echelon regiment would commit after the division's immediate objective has been achieved and may be committed on an alternate axis.



-- Predetermined Main Attack Axis.
-- Second-Echelon Mission Predetermined.
-- Second-Echelon Prepared to Attack in a Different Direction, Dependent Upon Success of First-Echelon.

Figure 2-4. Soviet Division Attack Against a Defending Enemy.

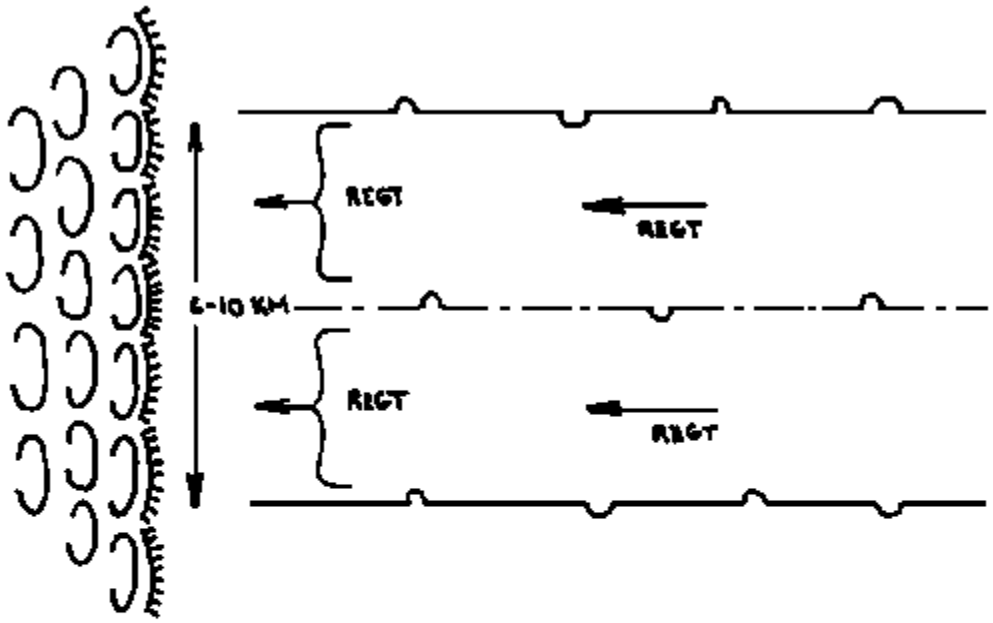
If enemy defenses are not well-prepared and most of its forces are deployed forward, or are very weak a Soviet division may attack on multiple axes with no predetermined main attack. (See Figure 2-5.) Follow-on forces include a second-echelon regiment and a small reserve to continue the attack. The second-echelon regiment would commit after the division's immediate objective has been achieved and may be committed on an alternate axis. The attack is conducted with three regiments in the first echelon, dispersed across the division front of 15 to 25 kilometers. The first-echelon regiments attack and probe for weak points in enemy defenses, penetrate wherever they can, develop penetrations, and carry the attack as deeply as possible. The division commander allows the battle to develop then commits the second echelon in the area of greatest success, which becomes the division main attack axis to maintain the battle.



-- No Predetermined Main Attack Axis.
-- Second-Echelon Committed Where Most Success Achieved by First-Echelon.

Figure 2-5. Soviet Division Attack Against a Defending Enemy.

Attack with forces massed across a narrow frontage is an attack conducted to breach well-prepared, deeply arrayed, enemy defense. The division in these circumstances would be two regiments in the first-echelon massed across a frontage of 6 to 10 kilometers, and followed by two second-echelon regiments and a small reserve. (See Figure 2-6) This type of attack is extremely vulnerable to tactical nuclear strikes. Such an attack requires rapid concentration of forces and fires to create the breach, and just as rapid dispersal of forces on the other side of the breach.



-- Forces Massed Across Narrow Frontage.
-- Least Preferred Option.

Figure 2-6. Soviet Division Attack Against a Defending Enemy.

The Soviet division attack options described are representative, not all inclusive. The organization, concept, and conduct of a Soviet division attack will vary with the division's mission, the commander's estimate of the situation, and the factors we know as METT-T. The basic concept for a Soviet attack is to find or create a gap, slip through, and drive deep at top speed.

Artillery and Air Preparation. The division attack is preceded by an artillery and air preparation of targets in the enemy forward defense area.

A division making attack on the main attack axis of its Army or Front receives many more artillery assets and close air support sorties than does a division making a supporting attack. A first-echelon division receives artillery units from higher headquarters. The division commander allocates some artillery to his first-echelon regiments to form regiments artillery groups and retains the rest in a division artillery group. These are a temporary grouping which will be modified based on need.

MEETING ENGAGEMENT

The Soviets consider the meeting engagement as "A clash between opposing Forces when they are simultaneously striving to fulfill assigned missions by means of offensive actions. A meeting engagement is characterized by obscurity of the situation and by abrupt changes in it...by rapid changes in march, approach march, and combat formations." The meeting engagement is either part of the offensive or defensive, and may occur when the defender is advancing to forward positions, after penetrating enemy forward defenses in a clash with advancing reserves, pursuit, or counterattack. The meeting engagement objectives are destruction of the enemy's forces, seizure of key terrain, and continuation of the advance.

Planning Factors. Anticipating a meeting engagement, careful planning and decision-making includes: use of reconnaissance information for making and transmitting of decisions in anticipation of enemy air and artillery strikes, nuclear or non-nuclear, and the use of such information in deployment of maneuver forces and flank and rear security assets, in an effect to seize the initiative.

Tactical March in Anticipation of the Meeting Engagement. The march column will vary with the size of the main force (division or regiment), the enemy situation (particularly the nuclear and chemical situation), and the number of routes available.

A division rarely advances on a single route with regiments in column, since this formation slows the forward movement and delays deployment into battle formation when resistance is encountered. A division could be forced onto a single route by road nets, mountains, swamps, or forested terrain. A division rarely advances on four routes with regiments abreast except when weak resistance is expected. A regiment leading a division march is the advance guard of the division. The advance guard is one-third of the main force's total combat power.

Conduct of the Attack. A division's attack from the march can be made five hours from the initial contact by lead elements of the advance guard. Follow-on forces can be engaged in less than three hours after the lead regiment's main force is engaged. There are several possible outcomes of a meeting engagement.

Successful Attack by the Lead Regiment. The lead regiment exploits success or resumes march with follow-on regiments in pursuit or consolidate positions and await orders or resume march in a new direction.

Enemy Establishes Hasty Defense. The lead regiment attacks enemy defenses and, by fixing enemy force, facilitates committment of division follow-on forces. Depending on maneuver space and size of enemy force, follow-on regiments flank or envelop enemy, artillery fire is centralized, and helicopter/assault forces are employed, if appropriate. If follow-on forces succeed, exploitation or pursuit is carried out, the position consolidated, forces regrouped, and the march resumes.

Lead Regiment in Hasty Defense. The lead regiment holds waiting arrival and deployment of follow-on forces. The follow-on forces counterattack and attempt to envelope enemy, artillery fire is centralized, and helicopter/assault forces are employed, if appropriate.

The Lead Regiment is Unable to Contain the Enemy Attack. The follow-on forces conduct the counterattack. If enemy withdrawn, exploitation or pursuit is initiated to consolidate the position, regroup, and resume march. If the follow-on forces establish defensive positions, the lead regiment withdraws, and the division holds pending commitment of Army follow-on forces.

The division's actions in a meeting engagement have been portrayed as a sequential, front-to-rear unfolding of combat. A normal situation when the division is marching on one to three routes with a lead regiment in advance of the division. The meeting engagement will not always unfold in the sequence of encounters by reconnaissance elements, advance elements, and main bodies, or begin with head-to-head, direct, or oblique encounters. The Soviet formula for a successful meeting engagement requires surprise, rapid and decisive maneuver, and concentrated fires when either side assumes a different type of combat action, such as defense, withdrawal, or pursuit.

PURSUIT

The Soviets define pursuit as: "An attack on a withdrawing enemy, undertaken in the course of an operation or battle for the purpose of finally destroying or capturing his forces. Destruction of withdrawing enemy is achieved by hitting his main body with body with strikes, by relentless and energetic parallel or frontal pursuit, by straddling his withdrawl route, and by...attacking his flanks or rear." Pursuit features swift the enemy and movements with short deployments of small forces to strike the enemy and develop into a contest of mobility and initiative. By definition, a pursuit occurs when the enemy withdraws as a result of a meeting engagement, penetration of his position, or following a nuclear strike. On the other hand, an enemy might deliberately withdraw when threatened with encirclement, when making a redistribution of forces, in attempts to draw the other side into a kill zone, or withdraws before nuclear strike. Frontal, parallel, or combination fronts/parallel, are forms of pursuit used consistently in Soviet writings. The more descriptive terms "direct pressure" and "pursuit" on parallel axis," are encountered in western writings. The preferred and most effective form is a combination of frontal/parallel.

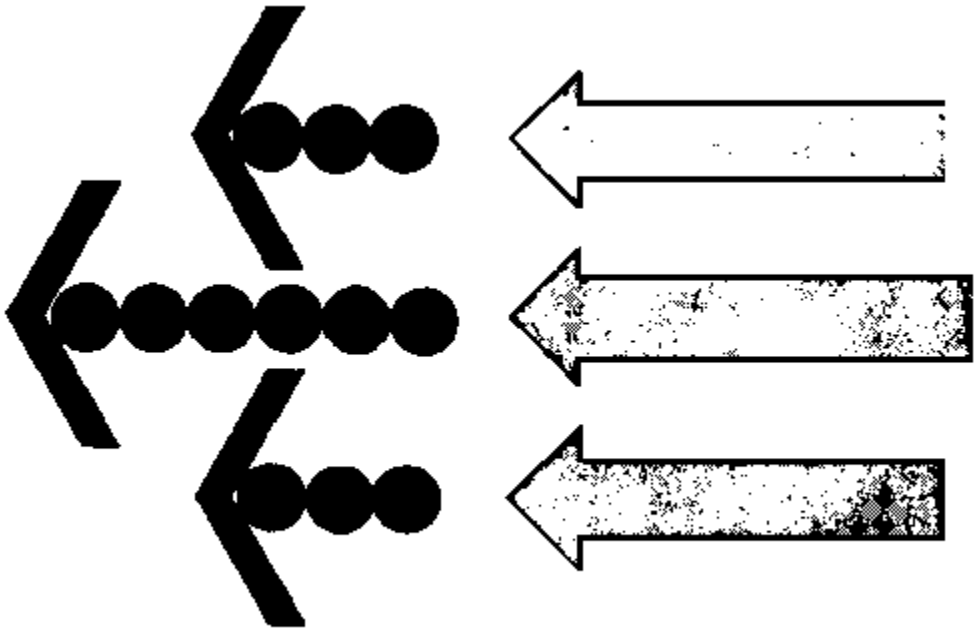


Figure 2-7. Frontal Pursuit.

Frontal Pursuit. It is conducted by forces in contact (See Figure 2-7) at the beginning of enemy withdrawal, at night, in difficult terrain, when overcoming obstacles, or when off-road maneuver is limited. It applies constant pressure on the enemy and limits freedom of maneuver, ability to take up defensive positions, and ability to disengage. The pursuit forces the enemy to deploy and delays the withdrawal. The frontal pursuit is not considered decisive because it only pushes the enemy back on its approaching reserves.

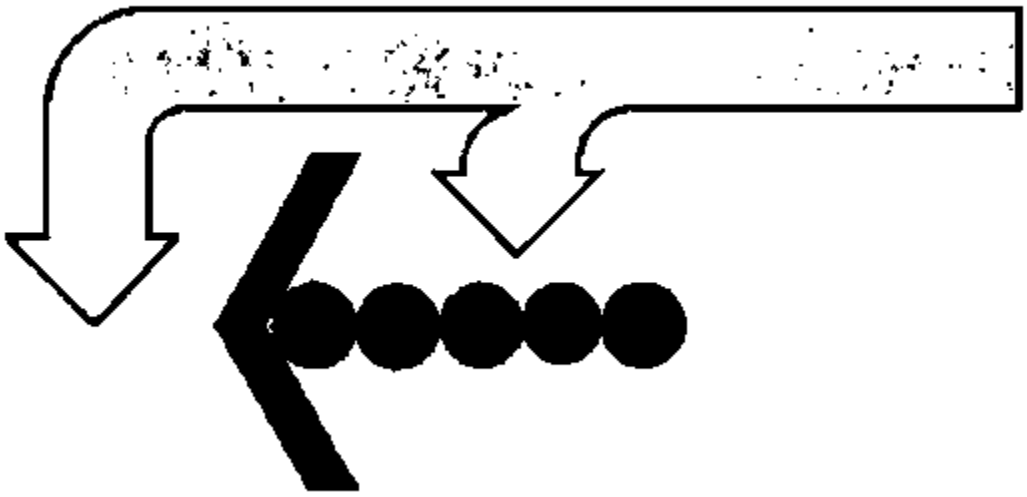


Figure 2-8. Parallel Pursuit.

Parallel Pursuit. During the parallel pursuit (See Figure 2-8), the pursuit force advances on routes parallel to the withdrawing enemy. High-speed parallel pursuit may permit either attack on the enemy's flank or cutting its main withdrawal routes. Under the threat of flank attack, the enemy may be required to split its force and delay withdrawal while defending against pursuer's attacks. Unless accompanied by frontal pursuit, this method gives the enemy some opportunity to maneuver and counterattack.

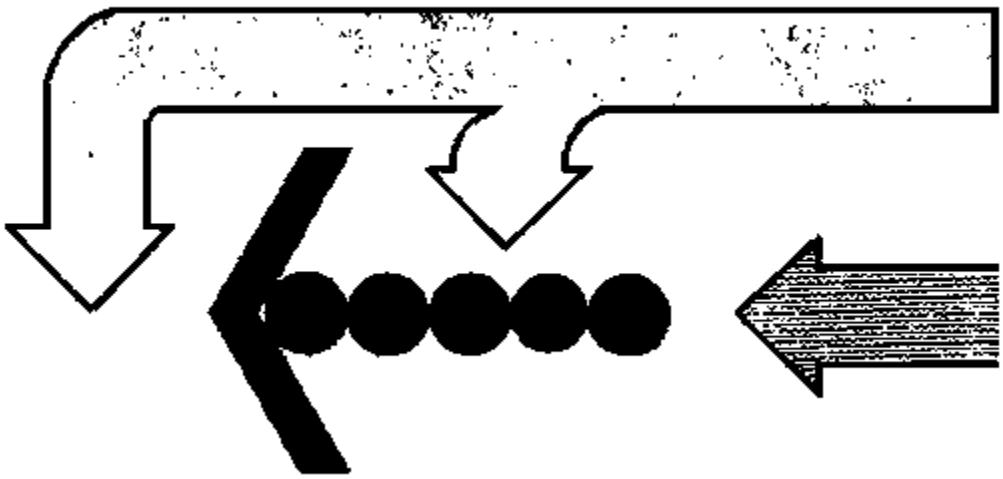


Figure 2-9. Combination Frontal/Parallel.

Combination Frontal/Parallel. In the execution of the combination frontal/parallel pursuit (See Figure 2-9), the main force moves parallel to the withdrawing enemy, while a small force pursues directly, maintaining constant contact. Tanks are the preferred force on the parallel axis, because of their speed and shock power. The combination form has the advantages of both frontal and parallel. It hinders disengagement and leads to flank attacks and cutting enemy withdrawal routes.

Termination. The pursuit is terminated on order of the next higher commander. Pursuit would be terminated when the enemy has been destroyed, the pursuing force has outdistanced its logistic support, the pursuing force has become overextended and is in danger of being cut off, or the advantage no longer belongs to the pursuit force. When pursuit ends, units are regrouped, and forces are deployed for subsequent operations.

PRACTICE EXERCISE: LESSON 2

INSTRUCTIONS:

The following items will test your grasp of material covered in this lesson. There is only one correct answer for each item. When you have completed the exercise, check your answers with the answer key that follows. If you answer any item incorrectly, study again that part of the lesson which contain the portion involved.

1. When may a march be conducted?
   - a. When moving from one assembly area to another.
   - b. During pursuit.
   - c. When conducting a passage of lines. .
   - d. Only on a and b.
   - e. All of the above.

2. A regiment in prebattle formation will:
   - a. Dig in and wait for the enemy.
   - b. Deploy into attack formation or return to march formation.
   - c. Advance with its battalion deployed on line in a forward or reverse wedge or echeloned left or right.
   - d. Mass for the attack.
   - e. Only b and c.

3. Conduct aggressive reconnaissance, bypass strongpoints, rapidly maneuver forces and fires in decisive direction, maintain momentum under all conditions, and mass fires are all basic principles of:
   - a. Soviet attack doctrine.
   - b. An agreement between Warsaw Pact countries on how to fight.
   - c. A Soviet river-crossing operations.
   - d. A Soviet deliberate defense.

4. A division making a supporting attack on the main attack axis of its Army or Front will receive the majority of artillery assets and close air support sorties.

    a. True.

    b. False.

5. Soviet commanders look upon meeting engagements as purely chance occurrences; consequently, there is no way to train for them.

    a. True.

    b. False.

LESSON THREE

SOVIET DEFENSIVE OPERATIONS

MQS Manual Tasks: 01-3353.01-0010

OVERVIEW

TASK DESCRIPTION: You will become familiar with Soviet defense doctrine with emphasis on hasty and prepared defense.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE:

ACTIONS: You will describe the hasty and prepared defense of the Soviet doctrine.

CONDITIONS: You will be given narrative information and illustrations from FM 1-402, FM 100-2-1, 100-2-2, and 100-2-3.

STANDARDS: You will be able to describe the Soviet doctrine defense postures at any time.

REFERENCES: The material contained in this lesson was derived from the following publications:

FM 1-402
FM 100-2-1
FM 100-2-2
FM 100-2-3

INTRODUCTION

The Soviets' constant emphasis on the offensive in their writings and their training exercise scenarios overshadows the underlying realism with which they approach the necessity for adopting the defense in the overall course of battle.

Defense doctrine, grounded in the vast defensive battles of World War II, now demonstrates a thorough recognition of the impact of weapons of mass destruction and, in the conventional picture, of the defensive use of armored combat vehicles, ground air defense weapons, and anti-tank guided missiles (ATGMs).

DEFENSE DOCTRINE

The Soviet's defense doctrine stresses that defense is temporary, for a portion of the force while the rest of the force remains on the offense.

These temporary missions are only until the offensive can be resumed. The descriptive term is the "defense in the course of the offense," or simply the hasty defense. When expecting a major attack, the defense must be established in depth, without resuming the offense. This is termed the prepared defense.

Soviets emphasize the offensive as the only means to achieve decisive victory. The constant repetition of offensive themes in exercise scenarios after only a short defensive play further confirms the offensive spirit of Soviet doctrine. The defense is to consolidate advance elements, and await additional resources when temporarily halted by the enemy during the course of an offensive. Other functions include, to protect the flanks of a formation or along a sea coast, to repulse an enemy counterthrust, and regroup after severe losses suffered from nuclear weapons, to free resources for other elements of the formation that are on the offensive, and/or await logistic support.

Prepared Defense Versus Hasty Defense. The prepared defense, compared to the hasty defense, differs in initial intent and mission, and tends to merge with the hasty defenses; the later stages of hasty defense may in fact be converted to a prepared defense. Modern defensive doctrine at Front and Army levels stresses defense in depth; but rather than multiple continuous belts, the defensive area consists of clusters of strongpoints. At both Front and Army levels, the key is stubborn defense of the FEBA by motorized rifle forces, deployed in depth, and decisive counterattacks by highly mobile, tank-heavy force of a second-echelon. The Reserves and second echelon may make up half of the force; their major tasks will be counterattacks and destroy the enemy forces penetrating the forward defenses.

Counterattack. Counterattacks are planned around tank-heavy forces. The speed and shock power of a tank unit makes it ideal for destroying a penetration by an enemy force. The tank forces, where terrain allows, will launch their counterattack against the enemy's flank using their speed to disorganize the enemy. While all Soviet commander's plan counterattacks, it requires the permission of the next higher commander to launch one. This is to prevent, for instance, a regimental commander from opening a hole in the division's defenses by moving his counterattack force early. It is the first-echelon divisions that hold the forward edge of the Army and Front positions. It is at division level we find all the principles of defense employed. The remainder of this section will examine the defense as conducted by a first-echelon division.

PREPARED DEFENSE

The prepared defense is organized with a security echelon or zone and a main defensive area. The security echelon is formed of the main defensive area to delay and deceive the enemy as to the location and deployment of the main defensive elements. The security force engages the enemy at the longest possible range and attempts to cause him to deploy prematurely. The security force size and composition depend on the mission, enemy, terrain, troops, and time available (METT-T). The zone extends 30 kilometers at Army level and 15 kilometers at division level, far enough forward to prevent direct fire from being placed on the main defensive area.

The Main Defensive Area appears as bands, belts, or layers. It is defense in depth with forces, including Armies and Fronts. The building block is the company strongpoint.

A Strongpoint. Typical frontages and depths for units are shown in Figure 3-1. The basic element of the main defensive area is the company (sometimes platoon) strongpoint. This is established on terrain which is key to the defense and must be retained at all costs. The unit occupying the strongpoint prepares an all-around defense with alternate and supplementary fire positions for all weapons. Fires are planned to be mutually supporting and provide for fire sacks and kill zones. Vehicles are dug in, and a network of communication trenches are constructed linking weapon positions with supply, command and control, and fighting positions. Everything that can provide the primary means of communication and everything that can be dug in will be. Minefields and barriers are emplaced and fires are planned to cover all approaches to the position, and finally, the entire position is camouflaged. This includes the use of dummy positions to draw fire and deceive the enemy as to the true location of the defenses.

Anti-tank Defense is essential to any defense that uses massed artillery and nuclear weapons for direct fire engagements.

Fires. Maneuver by fire is the concentration of fires from many guns on an advancing enemy in a sudden and devastating barrage. Fire sacks, or pockets, are preplanned fires of artillery in specific areas in conjunction with minefields or barriers.

Tank Ambushes are planned when opposed by armor-heavy forces, encirclement or a decisive engagement, the forces of the security zone will attempt to withdraw under cover of artillery fire and return to the main defensive area.

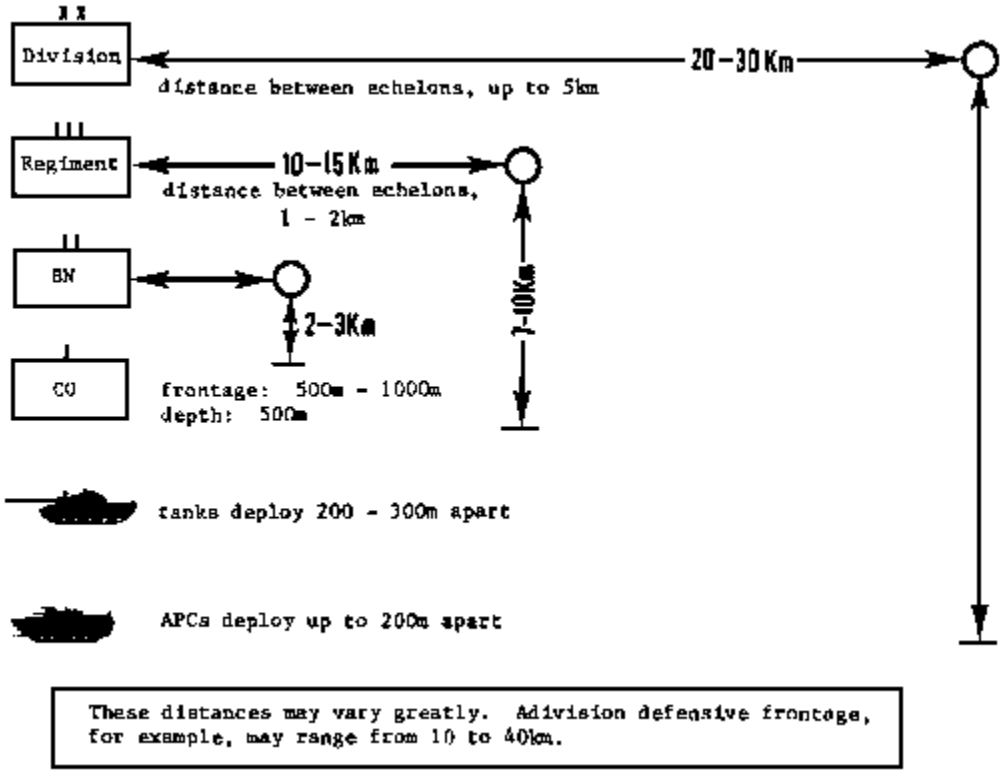


Figure 3-1. Defensive Frontages and Depths.

HASTY DEFENSE

The hasty defense is more prevalent than prepared defense. Offensive actions may be necessary to gain defensible terrain to establish the defense. A hasty defense cannot provide time for the detailed preparation associated with the prepared defense because the mission of hasty defense is more changeable and attack more imminent. The terrain may be unfavorable for organization of a defense; it may even be better suited for the attacker and time will be short.

Establishing the Defense, while in contact with the enemy, poses problems because forces cannot dig in while under fire and observation by the enemy. For this reason, a reverse slope defense is often chosen. Forces will be left in contact with the enemy on the forward slope(s) while the remainder of the force prepares the position on the reverse slope(s). This prevents observation by the enemy, and attacking forces will not be able to use direct fire support or anti-tank fires. The attacking enemy forces will be silhouetted on the crest of the hill and killing grounds are organized where both slope defenses will be used to take maximum advantage of the terrain.

Since the force going on the defensive will be in contact with the enemy, it will be difficult to establish a security echelon. Also, long-range fires will not play the part they did in the prepared defense because the enemy will be within small arm range. Barriers and minefields will be deployed in depth, denial of access to a specific area is the primary objective, not destruction, however, attrition of the enemy is still essential and defensive positions are chosen for their ability to support resumption of offensive action rather than a prolonged defense.

Use of Engineer Mobile Obstacles Detachments. The mission of laying barrier minefields across critical avenues of approach, by using armored minelayers, armored engineer vehicles, and dozer blades attached to armored vehicles ensures constant readiness to repulse an enemy attack.

Combat Service Support. Devoted to preparing units for future offensive actions with priority of support going to those units selected to spearhead offensive actions, such as vehicle recovery and repair.

WITHDRAWAL

The withdrawal is associated with the defense, or used when shifting forces for the offense to strengthen another sector considered especially threatened. The Soviets resort to deception, movement at night, and secret preparations to avoid alerting the enemy. They withdraw without occupation of intermediate lines and move on as many routes as possible to avoid presenting lucrative targets. The main force moves without pause and under radio silence until established in the new area.

Force Relocation. Withdrawals are carried out only by order of the superior commander in a deliberatly organized manner with emphasis on strict secrecy and security. The mission is to relocate the force in a timely and organized fashion from one position to another without sacrificing the combat capability of the unit. Forces are divided into three distinct groups: main body, rear guard, and covering force, each with a specific mission.

The main body, the bulk of the force to be withdrawn. Its mission is to disengage and withdraw without disclosing the operation to the enemy. It will withdraw from the position under cover of darkness or

adverse weather if possible. Fires will be planned to deceive the enemy about the true nature of the operation. The withdrawing forces provides its own rear and flank security. Reconnaissance of the route and new position are conducted, and guides posted to ensure the uninterrupted movement of the force. Air and artillery strikes will be planned to cover the withdrawal, if the withdrawal is carried out under enemy pressure.

The rear guard is to cover the movement from one location to another and delay the enemy if it attempts to pursue the withdrawing force. It is organized to delay the attacking enemy independently, and is not dependent on forces in the main force or the covering force. It consists of tank units reinforcer with motorized rifle, artillery, and engineers assigned to each major route of withdrawal.

The covering force is left in position to deceive the enemy and cover the disengagement withdrawal from the position. The covering force units come from the forces along the forward edge of the defense. This force consists of a reinforced platoon from each company, supported by selected artillery units.

Conduct of the Withdrawal. The initial stage of the withdrawal is the disengagement. (See Figure 3-2.) This stage is most vulnerable to attack. Maximum use is made of dummy positions, weather, and covering tires to ensure the enemy does not detect the disengagement. Unengaged forces are withdrawn first with the second-echelon and reserves. Next, the artillery and first-echelon force (less the covering force) are withdrawn from the position. After the main force has withdrawn through the rear guard force, the covering force may begin its withdrawal. The covering force will withdraw suddenly with all forces departing at the same time. If the covering force is withdrawn under pressure, they will leapfrog their units to the rear to join the main force in the new area.

With speed, stealth, and radio silence, the rear guard is on lines to cover the withdrawal of the main force. These force the enemy to pause and reorganize before attacking the next line. Forces are withdrawn to subsequent defensive lines by leapfrogging, with mutual fire support, ambushes, and engineers lay minefields, destroy bridges, and construct barriers. Artillery forces fire at maximum range on road junctions, defiles, and crossing points, and on enemy forces threatening to overrun or envelop positions, and withdraw by leapfrogging for continuous fire support.

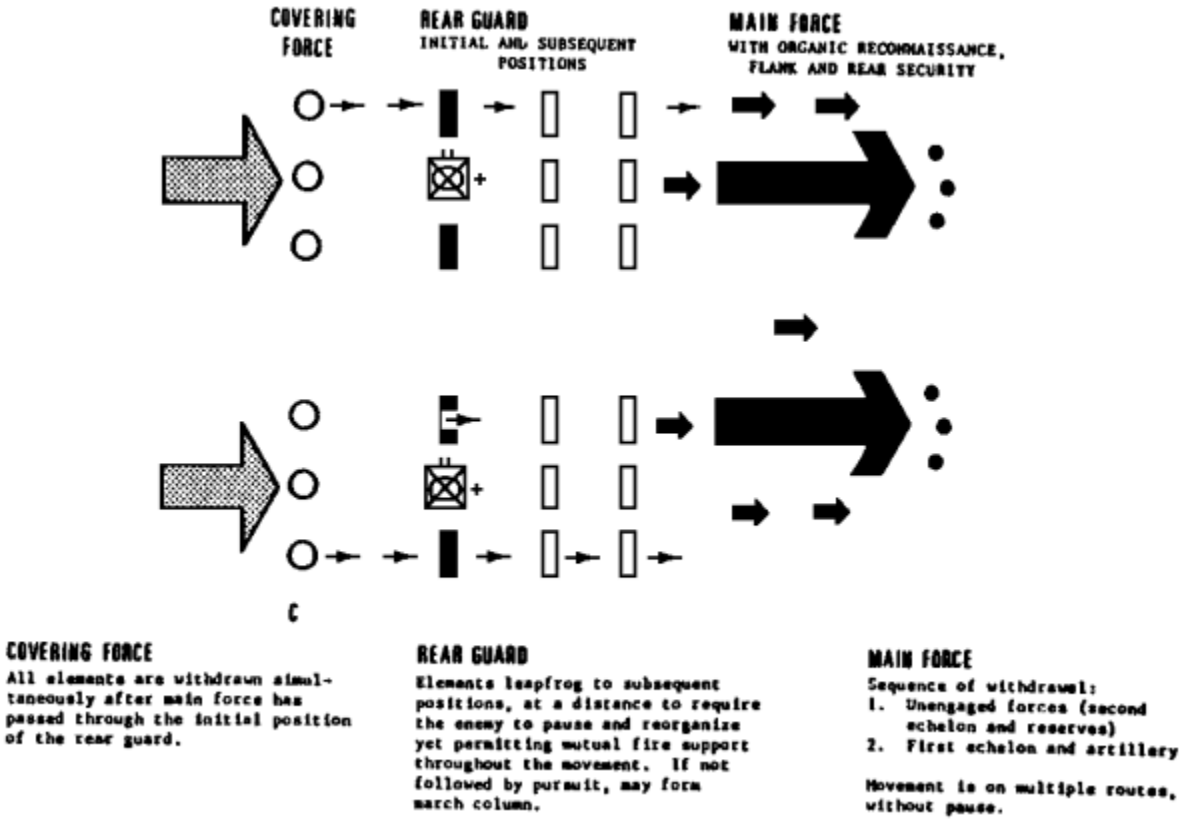


Figure 3-2. Withdrawal.

If the enemy does not pursue the force or attempt to envelop it, the rear guard may form march columns and return to the main body under its own security force to the new area. In the new area, the force is reorganized, refueled, rearmed, repaired, and cares for the wounded.

PRACTICE EXERCISE: LESSON 3

INSTRUCTIONS:

The following items will test your grasp of the material covered in this lesson. There is only one correct answer for each item. When you have completed the exercise, check your answers with the answer key that follows. If you answer any item incorrectly, study again that part of the lesson which contain the portion involved.

1. The establishment of a prepared defense--compared to the hasty defense--can be described as:

   ○ a. Completely different.

   b Based only on length of time and the defense.

   c. Based only on initial intent.

   d. A matter of the initial intent and concept of duration of the mission.

2. At which echelon does one find all the principles of defense employed?

   a. Front.

   b. Army.

   c. Division.

   d. All of the above.

3. A hasty defense is viewed by the Soviets as a temporary mission held only until the offensive can be resumed.

   a. True.

   b. False.

4. Soviet doctrine stresses the prepared defense as the most likely defensive operation.

   a. True.

   b. False.

5. The main force withdrawal is conducted without pause until arrival in the new area. Radio silence is maintained until this operation is completed.

   a. True.

   b. False.

LESSON FOUR

SOVIET SPECIAL OPERATIONS AND FORCES

MQS Manual Tasks: 01-3353.01-0010

OVERVIEW

TASK DESCRIPTION: You will become familiar with Soviet special operations with emphasis on Airborne, Air Assault. Airmobile, Air Forces military transport aviation (TAA), and naval infantry forces.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE:

ACTIONS: To know the Soviets objective and operations of their Airborne Assault force.

CONDITIONS: You will be given narrative information and illustrations from FM 1-402, FM 100-2-1, 100-2-2, and 100-2-3.

STANDARDS: You must know Soviet doctrine and determine what type Airborne operation are being used in accordance with FM 100-2-1, 100-2-2, and 100-2-3.

REFERENCES: The material contained in this lesson was derived from the following publications:

FM 1-402
FM 100-2-1
FM 100-2-2
FM 100-2-3

INTRODUCTION

The airborne assault is an integral part of Soviet combined arms doctrine. Projecting combat troops by air to service objectives forward of advancing ground forces directly supports the Soviet concepts of surprise, mobility, deep penetration and rapid exploitation. This includes landings of troops by parachute drop, fixed-wing aircraft, and helicopter.

AIRBORNE ASSAULT OPERATIONS

Airborne assault operations are associated with deep objectives. Helicopter assault operations are limited in depth by the transport radius.

Categories of Airborne Assault. There are four categories of airborne assault: strategic, operational, tactical, and special purpose.

* Strategic airborne operations. Airborne divisions are under Ministry of defense control; strategic objectives include seizure of air bases, seaports, or used to project Soviet power and presence outside of the Eurasian land mass.

* Operational airborne operations. Regiment-size airborne units organic to air assault brigades. (See Figure 1-8, and Figure 4-5) The air assault troops are controlled by an operational (Front or Army) commander. All troops in an "air assault" unit are parachute qualified. Air support for transportation is from strategic resources. Their objectives are key terrain, bridgeheads, river-crossings and so on to a depth of 300 kilometers.

* Tactical operations are heliborne motor rifle troops, from second echelon units. A battalion in size, limited to 50 kilometers to seize mountain passes, choke points, river-crossings, or inserted as a blocking force during a pursuit. Armed personnel carriers (APCs) and heavy artillery cannot be moved with them, they must be relieved quickly (about 1 day) or face destruction.

* Special or unconventional warfare (UW) airborne operations are established by the Soviet high command and controlled by Front and Army commanders. They are parachute assault or helicopter assault forces, company size or smaller, organized as reconnaissance or raid groups. Parachute assault forces target tactical or operational reconnaissance, intelligence collection, destruction of nuclear weapons, and disruption of command, control, and logistic functions, and rear area harassment, sabotage, and deception.

Airborne Operations. The Soviets have the largest airborne force in the world with seven airborne divisions and smaller airborne units for reconnaissance and raid missions. Soviet airborne divisions are mechanized infantry forces capable of seizing defended objectives and attacking well-armed enemy forces deep in the enemy rear. Combat equipment of an airborne division is air-droppable, and is transportable. The BMD is the greatest improvement in airborne division fighting vehicle for combat and is the primary squad fighting vehicles of an airborne division.

The BMD is an air-droppable, amphibious assault vehicle with armament similar to the BMP found in motorized rifle units. (See Figure 4-1). The ASU-57 assault gun and the SD-44 anti-tank field gun are found in some airborne units for specialized operations.

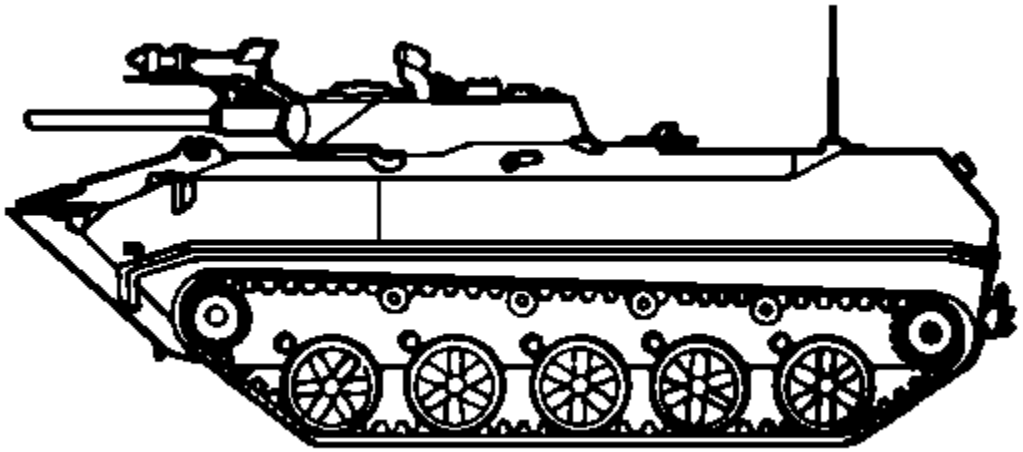


Figure 4-1. BMD.

The Airborne Division. On the ground, it can function exactly as a motorized rifle unit. The speed and shock power which the division now possess is vastly greater than any light-infantry force.

Air-Delivery Capabilities. Airlift service for Soviet airborne units and air assault brigades is provided by the VTA, a fleet of 600 medium- and long-range cargo transport planes. This fleet includes 400 AN-12 (CUBs) (similar to the US C-130), 130 IL-76 (CANDIDs) (similar to the US C-141), and 50 AN-22 (COCKs) (similar to the US C5A). (See Figure 4-2, 4-3, and 4-4.)

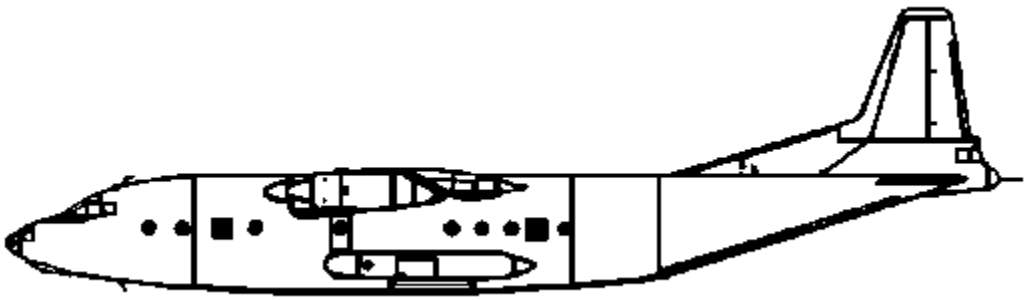


Figure 4-2. AN-12 CUB.

The medium range AB4N-12 is the workhorse of the VTA. This four-engine turboprop aircraft can airlift 90 troops or drop 60 paratroopers from two exits. It can carry 20 metric tons of cargo (two BMDs). Ninety AN-12s transport a BMD-equipped airborne regiment and can operate from unimproved runways, with a maximum payload, its range is 1,400 kilometers.

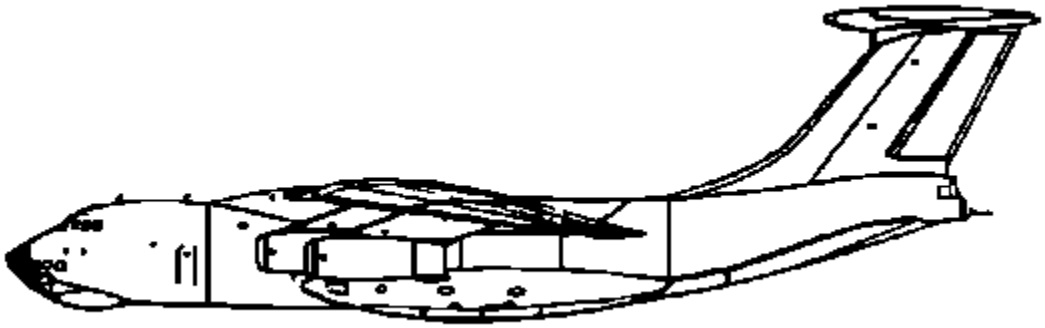


Figure 4-3. IL-/6 CANDID.

The AN-12 aircraft is supplemented by the IL-76 long-range, four engine jet transports. The IL-76 can carry 140 paratroopers who can jump from four exits. The IL-76 cargo capacity is 40 metric tons of combat equipment assigned to airborne forces. Each IL-76 can carry three BMDs. Fifty IL-76s are needed to transport a BMD-equipped airborne regiment. The IL-76 can operate from unimproved runways. Its range with maximum payload is 5,300 kilometers.

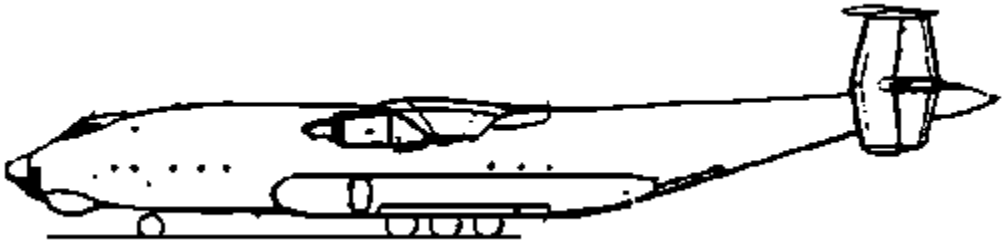


Figure 4-4. AN-22 COCK.

The AN-22 is a long-range, turboprop heavy transport aircraft used mainly for air landings, as opposed to airdrops. The AN-22 can carry 175 troops or 80 metric tons of cargo with a range of 4,200 kilometers. Each AN-22 can carry four BMDs. This aircraft transports large items such as self-propelled artillery, medium tanks, SAM launchers, or engineer equipment. It is well suited for strategic operations. The AN-22 is being replaced by the AN-124 CONDOR.

The AN-124 CONDOR is the largest transport aircraft in the world, similar to the US C-5 GALAXY. It can carry 300 troops or 150 tons of cargo. Twenty-five of these will move a BMD equipped regiment.

Most VIA aircraft are based in the western USSR. Some AN-12 units are based along the southern and far eastern borders of the USSR. The concentration of aircraft in the western USSR places the main VTA assets near the airborne divisions they would support, quickly concentrating its aircraft to support an operation anywhere along USSR borders. VTA capabilities are increased by the Soviet civil aviation, aeroflot, with 1,100 medium- and long-range passenger transports, 200 AN-12s and IL-76s, and several thousand short-range transports and helicopters for the airlanding of troops.

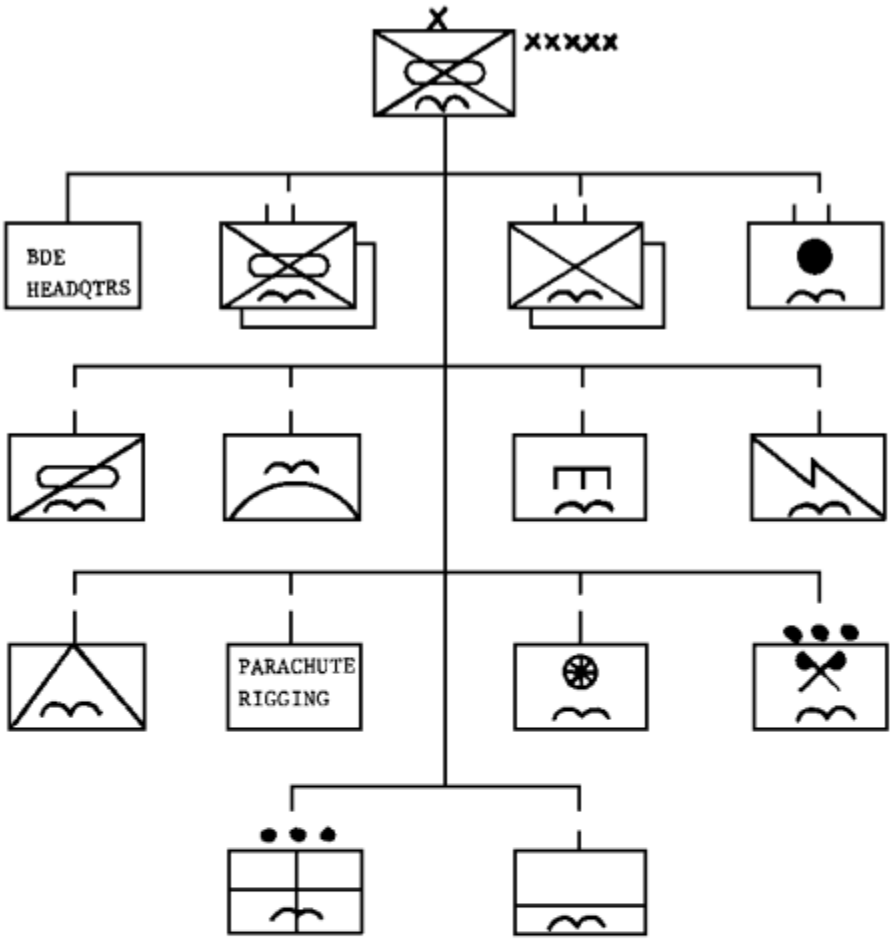
Conduct of Airborne Assault Operations. Soviet doctrine and practice of airborne assault operations employ surprise as an advantage. Security of the operation prevents detection and minimizes enemy reaction time, night airborne assaults achieve surprise. Landings will be in areas where enemy defenses

have been neutralized. There must be air cover for the enroute formation, and given fire support provided by air strikes, missile and artillery. An airborne assault operation requires coordination between the control headquarters, the airborne assault forces, supporting aviation, and the operation of ground maneuver forces. Reconnaissance of airborne operations by aviation, clandestine agents, long-range patrols, and airdropped reconnaissance teams is required for selections of primary and alternate drop zones, the terrain and condition of the road networks, and locations of natural and man-made obstacles that would interfere with airdrop of men and equipment. Flight routes are planned to minimize the threat of aerial intercept and ground air defenses during their time of most vulnerability. Fighter aircraft are assigned to protect in-flight transports and neutralize ground air defense.

A drop zone is 3 by 4 kilometers. A division will use four to six of these, a regiment one or two. Alternate drop zones are for emergency and follow-up use. In a drop zone, the first wave eliminates enemy resistance and protects follow-up drops and air landings, includes forward command posts and air defense weapons, engineers, and anti-tank artillery reinforcements.

On the ground, forces will organize at assembly points. If the force is excessively dispersed troops organize into small units. Reconnaissance missions are dispatched immediately to conduct patrolling to seize an objective, its mission is to defend the objective until the arrival of Soviet forces advancing from the front line. Using a 360-degrees perimeter defense, established in-depth with all units forward puts maximum power forward, with a small mobile reserve. For a regiment, this reserve would be a company, battalion defense is a platoon-size element in reserve.

Defensive positions are a series of strongpoints. A company assigned a strongpoint within a battalion establishes a defense in depth or a defense with all platoons forward. Enemy tanks are priority targets, engaging armor at maximum range, yet avoid having a BMD engage a tank one-on-one.



PRINCIPAL ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT

120MM Mortar, M-1943 or New	6
SAM, SA-7/GRAIL or SA-14 GRIPSTOCK	36
23mm AA Gun, ZU-23	6
ATGM Launcher, BRDM-2, AT-3/5	9
AT-3/SAGGER or AT-5 SPANDREL	9
ATGM Manpack, AT-3/SAGGER OR AT-4/SPIGOT	21
73mm Recoilless AT Gun, SPG-9	72
85mm Aux.-propelled AT Gun, SD-44	6
ATGL, RPG-16D	114
30mm Auto Grenade Launcher, AGS-17	18
5.45mm LMG, RPKS-74	90
AAICV, BMD	64
ASC, BRDM/BRMD-2	4

NOTE: This represents a provisional assessment of the strength, organization, and equipment of the airmobile assault brigade based on fragmentary information from several sources.

Figure 4-5.

Linkup with advancing ground forces in the final phase of an airborne operation. The airborne unit sends its reconnaissance element to meet advancing ground force units, to provide information on the best approaches into the area, the security situation, the objective, and the enemy situation. Once linkup has been completed, operational control of the airborne unit returns to the Front or TVD.

Helicopter Assault Operations. The Soviets parachute units have the capability for conducting helicopter assault operations, helicopter assault tactics, and techniques. Helicopter regiments subordinate to the AOF allocates aircraft for heliborne operations. Planning and control of a heliborne operation will be at a lower level than an airborne assault because of the lower subordination of the MRB. At a lower command level, the same planning, coordination, and reconnaissance required for airborne assault operations depends on the variety and size of arms and service involved at Front, Army, or division level.

Conduct of Heliborne Operations stress the importance of securing river-crossing and bridgeheads, seizure of terrain such as mountain passes, beach exits, desert oases, and crossroads. The pursuit of enemy withdrawal, blocking attempts to break out of encirclement, reinforcing a meeting engagement. Rear area raids, sabotage, or deception operations, and laying and clearing mines in enemy rear area as far as 50 kilometers in front of the Soviet FEBA in mounting operations, primary and alternate pickup and landing zones (LZs) are designated. Assault troops and lift helicopters converge on pickup zones 20 kilometers behind the FEBA and fly as low as 50 to 100 meters to mask their approach.

Artillery and tactical air liaison personal accompany the assault force. Within range capabilities, artillery preparatory fires suppress enemy ground air defenses and protect the LZ. Escort fighter aircraft or armed helicopters provide fire support during the ground attack. Within the assault force mortars, ATGMs, and direct-fire weapons attached to companies are deployed for all-around protection.

The primary LZ will be on or near the objective. If the LZ is distanced form the objective, an advance element will reconnoiter routes and clear obstacles and assault the objective keeping a platoon-size force in reserve. In the defense phase, the heliborne force will, like the airborne assault operation, form platoon and company strongpoints, emphasizing anti-tank security and mining of approaches to the defense periphery. An MRB in heliborne operations is not self-sustaining, but capable of fighting independently up to 24 hours, but linkup in 2 to 3 hours is considered desirable.

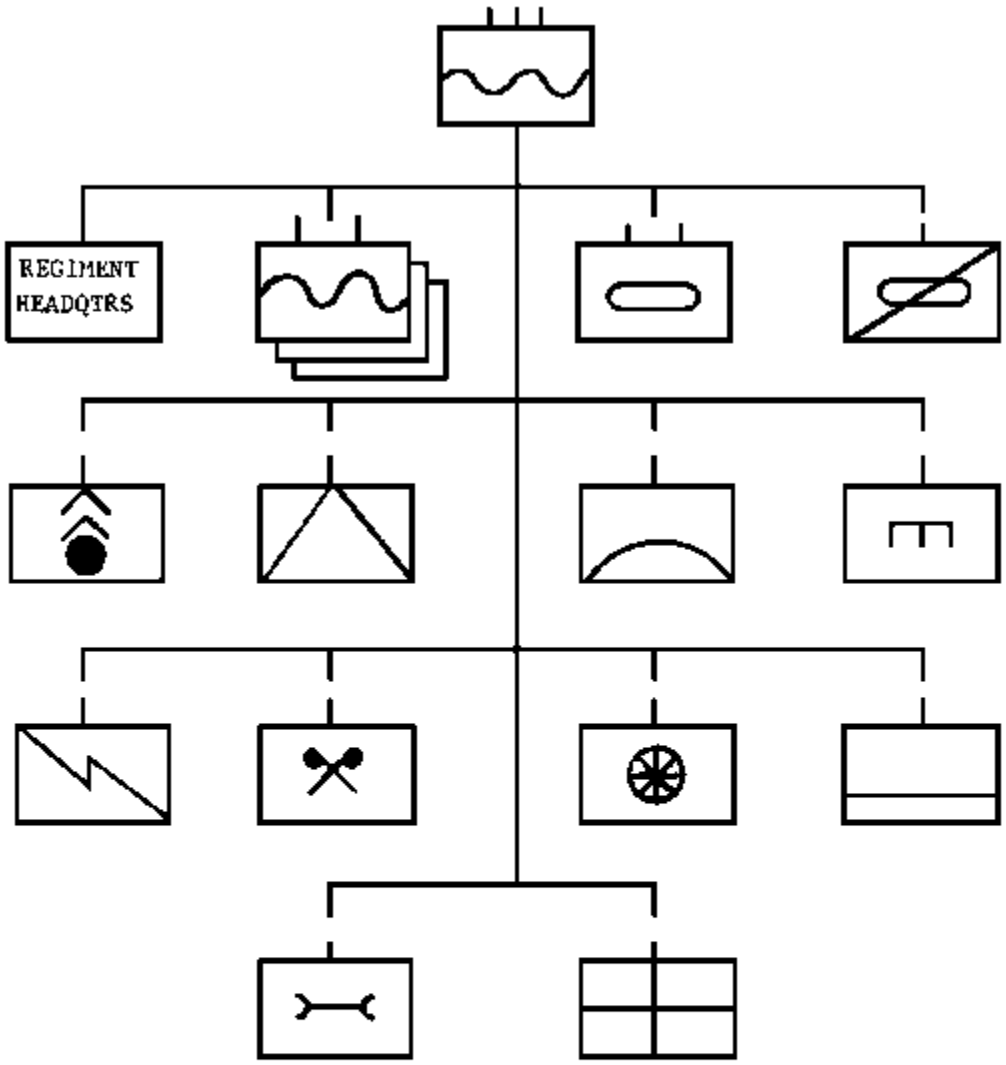
NAVAL INFANTRY FORCES

The Soviet Naval infantry is reorganizing from a regiment to a brigade structure. While exact details of the reorganization are not available, it is believed that, at a minimum, there will be four Naval Infantry Battalions in each Brigade, compared to three in the old regiments. For reference, the old structure of a Naval Infantry Regiment is provided at Figure 4-7. The Soviet Naval Infantry Division of the Pacific Fleet is structional similar to a Motorized Rifle Division, with three Naval Infantry Regiments, a tank regiment, and an artillery regiment. The Soviet Naval Infantry is deployed as described in Figure 4-6.

FLEET	NUMBER OF NAVAL INFANTRY UNITS
Northern	1 Brigade
Baltic	1 Brigade
Black Sea	1 Brigade
Pacific	1 Division

Figure 4-6. Naval Infantry Deployment.

The Soviet Naval Infantry is a brigade structure with four naval infantry battalions in each brigade. The Soviet Naval Infantry Division of the Pacific Fleet is structured similarity to a motorized rifle division, with three naval infantry regiments, a tank regiment, and an artillery regiment. The Soviet Naval Infantry is described in Figure 4-7.



MAJOR EQUIPMENT

Personnel Carrier, BTR-60	111
Tank, T-54/55	10
Tank, Amphibious, PT-76	34
Reconnaissance Vehicle, BRDM-2	9
Reconnaissance Vehicle, BRDM-rkh	3
ATGM, AT-3/5 mounted on BRDM-2	6
AA Gun, ZSU 23-4	4
SAM, SA-9/13	4
Mortar, 120mm	9
Multiple Rocket Launcher, BM-21	6

Figure 4-7. The Soviet Naval Infantry.

The mission of the Soviet Naval Infantry is amphibious assault, landings made up to trained teams for amphibious landing, or combat operations. Amphibious landing categories depends upon the scale and mission of the landing: strategic, operational, tactical, and reconnaissance and sabotage landings.

Strategic landings. Amphibious landings in support of opening up a new front of military operations. An example of this type landing would be the Allied landing in Normandy on 6 June 1944.

Operational landings. Assist ground or naval forces in a coastal region to surround and destroy enemy units in that area. A "maritime" front, the landing of a naval infantry brigade as the first echelon.

Tactical landings. To strike at the rear area or flank of an enemy force along a coastline, or to seize islands, naval bases, coastal airfields, ports, and other objectives on an enemy-held coastline. The naval infantry force employed could operate independently or with ground force units.

Reconnaissance and Sabotage landings. For reconnaissance, inflicting loss or damage in enemy rear area facilities located near coast, and creating a diversion.

Training. The Soviet Naval Infantry is a small, elite force and has strict requirements for selection. The conscript is taught basic military skills, vehicle driving, swimming, communications, electronics, maintenance, medicine, cooking, and parachutes or frogman training. Continuous training is divided between tactical, weapons, amphibious landing, and physical training.

Tactical Training. The Soviets require the naval infantryman to be decisive, demonstrate initiative, confidently negotiate water barriers, and employ surprise in tactical exercises. Realism is introduced through live firing, mockups, moving targets, and use of "aggressor" forces, studying the enemy and its organization, equipment, weapons, and tactics, including defense against air attack, assault landing tactics, and shore battles. Rapid and decisive actions in an amphibious assault require developing and maintaining momentum of the attack. The Soviet Naval Infantry is employed with airborne and ground force units to provide escort, transport, and fire support. Soviet naval and frontal aviation provide fire support against beach defenses, and ground forces provide linkup operations and/or a follow-up force. Coordination of training is necessary in an operation of this complexity. The Navy and the airborne, heliborne, air, and ground forces have participate jointly in these landings. For example, in Exercise "YUG" 1971, an amphibious assault landing took place together with an airborne landing which blocked enemy reinforcements from reaching the beachhead. When the beachhead was secured, ground forces were landed that subsequently linked up with the airborne force.

The amphibious landing with a ground force will detail a reconnaissance party of a motorized rifle company with engineers to reconnoiter the landing area.

The information from this reconnaissance party is sent to the amphibious and supporting air forces. The enemy defenses are then fired upon by aircraft, navy gunfire, and ground force artillery. From this point, there are five phases in a Soviet amphibious assault landing:

* Preparation of equipment and amphibious units.

* Embarkation of personnel and loading of equipment on ships and transports.

* Movement by sea to the objective area.

* The battle for the beachhead by the amphibious units.

* Landing of ground forces and withdrawal of the Naval Infantry.

PRACTICE EXERCISE: LESSON 4

INSTRUCTIONS:

The following items will test your grasp of the material covered in this lesson. There is only one correct answer for each item. When you have completed the exercise, check your answer with the answer key that follows. If you answer any item incorrectly, study again that part of the lesson which contains the portion involved.

1. A potential mission(s) of an operational airborne assault operation is/are:

   ○ a. Acting as a strategic reserve for a CAA.

   b. Seizing objectives outside of the Eurasian land mass.

   c. A and B.

   d. Securing bridgeheads.

2. How many airborne divisions do the Soviets have?

   a. 7.

   b. 4.

   c. 8.

   d. 10.

3. Strategic airborne assault operations are under direct control of the Ministry of Defense.

   a. True.

   b. False.

4. Extensive planning, preparation, and coordination between all participating units are a must for a successful airborne assault operation.

   a. True.

   b. False.

5. The Soviet Naval Infantry regiment has only one organic artillery battalion and depends on the regimental artillery groups for additional support.

   a. True.

   b. False.

6. The primary mission of the Soviet Naval Infantry is amphibious assault.

    a. True.
    b. False.

APPENDIX

ACRONYMS

AAA	Anti-aircraft artillery
ABM	Antiballistic missile
AIFV	Armored infantry fighting vehicle
AOF	Aviation of the front
ATGM	Ant-tank guided missile
CAA	Combined Arms Army
CGF	Central Group of Forces
DAG	Division artillery group
FEBA	Forward edge of the battle area
FROG	Free rocket over ground
GSFG	Group of Soviet Forces/Germany
ICBM	Intercontinental ballistic missile
INF	Intermediate Nuclear Forces

IRBM	Intermediate-range ballistic missile
LRA	Long-range aviation
LZ	Landing zone
MAC	Military Airlift Command
MD	Military district
METT-T	Mission, enemy, terrain, troops, and time available
MRB	Motorized rifle battalion
MRBM	Medium-range ballistic missile
MRD	Motorized rifle division
MRL	Multiple rocket launcher
MRR	Motorized rifle regiment
NGF	Northern Group of Forces
PVO	The Air Defense Troops (VOYSKA)
RAG	Regimental artillery group

REC	Radio-Electronic Combat
RVGK	Reserve of Supreme High Command
SAC	Strategic Air Command
SAM	Surface-to-air missile
SGF	Southern Group of Forces
SLBM	Submarine-launched ballistic missile
SRF	Strategic rocket forces
SSM	Surface-to-surface missile
STAVKA	Supreme High Command Headquarters
TA	Tank Army
TAC	Tactical Air Command
TD	Tank division
TEL	Transportation, erector, launcher
TVD	Theaters of military operations
USAF	United States Air Force
USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

VTA	Military transport aviation